



2021

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



Journal

MEETS PROGRAMME 2021

Date	Meet and Venue	Meet Leader
February 6	AGM by Zoom Meeting	Log in online
April 13	North/South Day Meet	Paul Stock
May 11	North/South Day Meet	Paul Stock
June 3 - 6	Royal Oak, Hurdlow, Derbyshire Bunkhouse/Camping	Andy Burton
June 26 - 27	Cotswold Meet	Mike Goodyer
July 2 - 4	Rhyd Dhu, Oread Club Hut, North Wales	Ed Bramley
July 4 - 25	Camping Joint Alpine Meet, Innerkirchen, Switzerland	Paul McWhinney
August 14 - 20	Hotel Alpine Meet, St Luc, Valias, Switzerland	James Baldwin
August 19 -22	New Members Meet, GSH, Patterdale	Mary Eddowes
August 26 - 28	GSH Maintenance Meet	Marian Parsons
September 4 - 11	Picos de Europa Meet, Casa Gustavo	Paul Stock
September 17 - 20	ABMSAC/AC Late Summer Meet, GSH, Patterdale	TBC
September 24 - 26	Roving Meet, Swanage, Auberge Hostel	Paul Stock
October 8 - 10	New Inn, Bwlch, Brecon Beacons	Paul Stock
October 22 -24	Presidents Meet, GSH, Patterdale	Andy Burton
November 20	North/South Day Meet	P Stock, E Bramley
Dec 27 - Jan 2	ABM Twixmas/New Year Meet, George Starkey Hut, Patterdale	Book your own

LONDON WINTER LECTURES

November 3	Arctic Expeditions	David Johnson
December 1	Winter Ski traverse of the Pyrenees 2020	Steve Kentish
January 5	Cauterets to Bagnères-de-Luchon, Hautes-Pyrénées	Andy Smith
February 2	Jordan: Wadi Rum and Petra	D Hodge, J Renshaw
March 2	Desert Island Climbs	Martin Whitaker

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2021 Meets Programme - inside front cover

Current Office Holders - back cover

Cover photo: Patterdale from Boredale Hause descending path by Ed Bramley, August 2020

EDITORIAL

Welcome to this years Journal.

At this years Annual General Meeting, via Zoom, James Baldwin handed over the Presidency to Andy Burton. Many thanks to James for his contributions to the ABM over the last three years. He is taking a well earned rest from Committee work this year. In addition, Ed Bramley has taken on the role of Treasurer from Andy and Julie Freemantle takes on the role of Membership Secretary. We wish them success in their new roles.



The new President, Andy, has been a member of Sektion Monte Rosa of the SAC since 1975. His interest in walking and all things outdoor was kindled at an early age by his parents and he developed his hill walking, Alpine and rock climbing skills with like minded friends from school and college.

Andy has been a regular user of the George Starkey Hut for over 45 years. He organised several family meets at the Hut as well as camping meets in Derbyshire.

Since 2000 Andy has been a regular attendee on the trekking meets and organised a trek to the Matteredal in 2015. Andy has been on the Committee since 2013, first as Meet Secretary and in 2019 as Treasurer.

The restrictions implemented during the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK and elsewhere severely changed everybody's plans for the year. The Meets Programme put together with Paul and the Meet organisers was thrown into disarray and only the North/South day meet went ahead in September.

In March St Patrick's church in Patterdale (the one opposite the hut) set up a food bank and a Community Fund for the village to help people in the parish who, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, found themselves in a financially difficult position. The Committee agreed that we would support the Community Fund to the value of £1000, and to allocate £250 each month for 4 months.

The first restrictions were implemented on March 23, when one could only exercise alone or with people from the same household. In addition the Swiss Huts and the GSH were shut. This meant that all club activities ceased. On May 13 the restrictions were relaxed to allow walking/exercise with another person not from your household and the Swiss Huts reopened, with restrictions.

Later on June 1 there was a further relaxing of the restrictions and groups of up to 6 people were allowed to meet outdoors - with appropriate social distancing. In July the George Starkey Hut was reopened, allowing one household to visit at a time, with 72 hours between visits (only weekend bookings were permitted). In addition, organised meets of up to 30 people was allowed. This allowed for some club activity to get under way.

In the late November/December restrictions were reinstated, with different tiers across the country and one was back to exercising with one person not from your household. In addition, one could not travel to another tier for visits to the hut or for exercise. Early in the new year (January 6 2021) full restrictions were again reinstated. At the time of writing there will be relaxation of the full restrictions from the second week of March.

However, despite all this many members made pretty good use of the time available for getting out to exercise, meet virtually and attend the 'London lectures' via Zoom.

In the Journal there are reports of the few meets that we could run and from two members who squeezed in some training before the Covid-19 restrictions came in March and a series of articles about the George Starkey Hut. In addition, there are accounts of several members exploits and from an unofficial ABM group of Southern based members who organised and went on several walks when the restrictions allowed.

Late in 2019 the Committee agreed to complete the digitising of the Journals from the founding year to 1974. This work was completed in February 2020. Over the next few months, finishing in July, I loaded the Journals onto the website, so that we now have a complete set of Journals from 1909 to the present day. The early Journals give an interesting insight into a bygone age. I hope that you enjoy dipping into them.

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 years activities.

I hope you enjoy the Journal.

Mike Goodyer,

Editor, March 2021

PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

In the ABMSAC world 2020 officially started at the very end of January with another enjoyable Annual Dinner Meet back at the Glenridding Hotel, ably organised by Julie Freemantle, and supported by just short of 50 members, and rounded off with a very interesting talk by our guest David Johnson about his Arctic expeditions.

Early in the year two more members took advantage of the Clubs Development and Training package, with Rick Snell attending Glenmore Lodge for one of their Avalanche Awareness courses, and Julie Jones attending Plas y Brenin for an Introduction to Navigation course run by Mountain Training Trust. Another member fitted in a trip to the desert with KE.

By the time of the New Members Meet at the end of March, the country had entered into the first national lockdown, so Mary Eddowes organised a Virtual Meet in an online Zoom chat room. As the first such meet in the Club's 111-year-old history, it proved to be great fun, and a very useful training exercise for what was to come.

Several other trips were done by members who used the time between lockdowns to enjoy the limited group walks. A series of unofficial day walks were undertaken by both a group of members based in the south of the country, and a couple of smaller contingents living well north of Watford Gap.

These all led to the joint North/South Day Meet in September, with a large party by Covid-19 standards, enjoying a walk from Corfe Castle, and a small group walking from Sparklow in the Peak District. Progress and updates were shared by the two separate parties as the day progressed. As you can see this format was deemed such a success that it features again in the 2021 programme.

The use of Zoom enabled your Committee to still function during the year, and the London series of Winter Lectures to reach a regular audience of over 100 from all over the Country.

The number of members has fallen slightly, but with Mary's Virtual Meet introducing another two new members in 2020, the outlook once we come out of the pandemic, is still a very positive one.

During the year we looked to support communities that had suffered during the pandemic and, after suggestions from members, supported both a local and overseas community. Four donations of £250 were made to the Patterdale Parish Community Fund during 2020, thanks to Mike and Marian for bringing that local Appeal to our notice. Pamela Harris brought an appeal by the Himalayan Trust UK to our notice, and in December a donation of £500 was made.

Three long-standing members died this year. Timothy Smith, who was a life member of the Association and a member of the SAC (Monte Rosa-Sion Section) since 1957, Peter Clarkson, a former Chairman of the Tuesday Climbing Club, and a life member of the Association and David Hern who had been a member of the Association and the SAC (Diablerets Section) since 1949. (*See Obituary Section*)

Andy Burton March 2021

MEET REPORTS

Overview of the 2020 activities

In 2020, along with many other parts of our lives, the club activities were drastically curtailed due to the restrictions imposed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We were able to enjoy the Annual Dinner and AGM weekend in the Lakes in February which was reported in last years Journal.

With the onset of the first restrictions in March the only meet that we were able to hold was the North/South day meet in September. The 'New Members Meet' went ahead as a virtual meet on Zoom, led by Mary Eddowes and during a relaxing of the restrictions in Switzerland during the summer Pam and Alan managed a short trip to the venue of the planned Hotel Alpine Meet. The club year was rounded off this February by a virtual AGM being held on Zoom.

The reports of these activities are presented below.

ABMSAC New Members Meet - 28 March - Report by Mary Eddowes



Thirteen folks attended this years rather unusual new members meet in an online zoom video chat room.

Sadly due to COVID-19, the original meet at the George Starkey hut in Patterdale had to be cancelled. And so from self-isolation lock down folks in Nottingham, Derbyshire, Cheshire, Glasgow, Bristol, London, Bath and Northumberland, logged on at 4pm on 28 March for a chat, a brew and some cake.

As members logged on, it was a joy to see each other and have a light moment in an otherwise overwhelming week. It was of course disappointing not to be out on the fells together, but great to connect with familiar faces and also welcome new faces to the group. Welcome to Gilbert and Charlie! We'll see you at a meet in the future no doubt.

A few highlights...

Andy Burton joined us in appropriate high altitude mountain wear, as unfortunately his heating and gas had given up the go at home. But he assured us he was doing ok and would be getting the Primus stove out later to cook his dinner. A true mountaineer! Next he'll be abseiling out of his window for his daily exercise...



Ed looking fabulous, but where are his colourful trademark trousers??

Ed Bramley gave a mini-quiz by zooming in on old photos and challenging us to guess the locations. A hard feat as the photos were rather small and not always in shot, but very amusing! A photograph of Ed working on the Gorner glacier, Switzerland in 1975, was a particular favourite.



Looking South, Ullswater



And bonus points to anyone who can tell Heather Eddowes where she was in this photograph (taken in 1983) She has forgotten!

Gilbert Roberts, a potential new club member, had everyone perusing his fabulous photo of the Alphubel, whilst Heather Eddowes shared a lovely painting of well loved 'Place Fell and Ullswater' from her home in Knutsford. Rachel and Karen in Glasgow drank late afternoon raison cocktails, very strange combination, but in these strange times, why not try something new and unexpected?



Mary led a short online ceilidh (skipping up and down her houseboat, twirling the computer round for a virtual 'spin your partner' effect), whilst Pete Bennett travelled (via video backgrounds) to snowy Norway, a muddy Glastonbury field, unknown mountain ranges and finally landed in front a roaring fire much to everyone's amusement. He told of plans to learn to unicycle during lock down, good luck Pete!

"In between staging roller discos in the garage, mowing a golf green into the lawn and attempting to create a skate ramp from leftover wood, Pete likes to find creative ways that his ABMSAC buff can make everyday activities more challenging"

Great to see everyone, thanks for lifting spirits and sharing a brew. Looking forward to seeing you out on the hills sometime soon. Stay safe people. And sending good wishes to all ABM members far and wide

Attendees: Martha King, Celine Ganyon, Rachel Howlett, Karen Dickinson, Pete Bennett, Carrie Brassley, Ed Bramley, Andy Burton, Heather Eddowes, Dave Matthews, Mary Eddowes, Gilbert Roberts, Charlie Rawson

St Luc in the time of Coronavirus - Report by Pamela Harris



When a new virus from China reached Western Europe early this year, everyone thought it would be quickly contained and would not affect the summer's Alpine hotel meet at St Luc in the Val d'Anniviers. But as country after country entered lockdown and borders closed, by May it became clear that the meet would have to be cancelled.

However, by late June Switzerland had gradually begun to recover, with hotels, restaurants and mountain lifts opening, and so Alan and I decided to go to St Luc on a "mini-meet" of our own, knowing that those from the UK would be unable to join us. The forecast was set for sunshine every day, so we phoned the Hotel Beausite, where our original reservation had been for a group of 26, and booked for just the two of us.

The meet for two: above Chandolin

The Val d'Anniviers is described by Kev Reynolds in the *Cicerone Guide to Walking in the Valais* as having “some of the loveliest mountain scenery imaginable”. At its head are the alpine giants of the Matterhorn, Ober Gabelhorn, Weisshorn and Zinal Rothorn, and it was these that we looked out towards from the balcony of our hotel room and from the breakfast room. We were impressed by the precautions against Covid-19 taken by the Salamin family, with hand sanitiser at the entrance, restaurant tables reorganised for social distancing, and the waitresses wearing face shields. We had understood from the media that this year the Swiss were mostly taking holidays in their own country, although after the first Saturday evening there were few others staying in the hotel while we were there.

There are a wide selection of walking trails in the valley for at Vissoie it divides into three branches, south-east leading



up to St Luc and the highest village of Chandolin; due south to Zinal; and south-west to Grimentz and Moiry. I had many memories of previous climbs in the valley for I had visited frequently since first coming to work in Switzerland in the 1960s, and in 2007 on Alasdair's Valais Trek we had crossed the high passes linking the four villages. The weather had not been nearly so kind to us on that occasion, and on several days we had thick cloud, rain and even snow to contend with; only the three stalwarts of Lin and Dick Murton and Dick Yorke had walked every day of the trek, the rest of us getting round by public transport or hitching a lift in Karen's “yakmobile”.

View from the hotel of Besso, Ober Gabelhorn and Matterhorn

Since we would be there for four days, we planned a walk from each of the centres, beginning with the walk from Zinal up to the Cabane du Petit Mountet. We left the car where the pastures begin at the end of the village and walked along a flat path through meadows of black cows grazing amidst colourful flowers. The view in front was dominated by the twin peaks of Besso, at 3668m the first big mountain I had climbed more than 50 years ago, setting foot on its summit the same day that Neil Armstrong had set foot on the moon. On reaching the stream the path began to wind steeply uphill through trees, the rockier parts protected by chains, crossing small streams and waterfalls. As we turned a corner we finally came out into an open valley, with alpenrose at the side of the path and views of the Weisshorn above the cirque of Ar Pitetta to our left. We could now see the hut with its



Walking towards Besso



terrace of brightly coloured umbrellas perched at the top of the moraine above us, just a short haul before we could relax with a welcome drink.

Here the glacier was rubble-strewn and dirty, but there was a glorious view of the glistening white peaks above it. I had first visited the hut when it was on the route to the much higher Cabane du Grand Mountet, one of the most beautifully situated huts in the Swiss Alps, directly opposite the north face of the Ober Gabelhorn. But this path up the western side of the glacier is no longer in use as glacial recession and crumbling moraine has made it too dangerous, and now the safer route to take is on the opposite bank along the flanks of Besso, on a path constructed some years ago by the Swiss army.

Cabane du Petit Mountet

The following day we woke early to glorious sunshine again and took the 9 o'clock funicular to Tignousa, an easy way to gain 500m height. Our objective was the *Sentier des Lacs*, the Lakes Trail, a 14km circuit below the 3000m Bella Tola, which I had climbed on more than one occasion, the last time being with my local SAC group led by club members Niels and Guni Doble. We set out along the Planets Trail, a scale model of the solar system with sculptures of each of the planets, quickly passing the six closest together: Sun, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars and Jupiter. The path led towards the large square building of the Victorian Hotel Weisshorn on the ridge high above us, and is part of the route taken by the annual Sierre-Zinal mountain race. This is a gruelling 31km run, with 2200m height gain and 1100m loss, which Alan had completed 17 times. Sadly, Covid-19 meant that this year's race has been cancelled - although Alan didn't think he could still match his best time of just five hours!



View up the glacier from the Cabane du Petit Mountet



After passing the models of Saturn and Uranus further along, we turned off the main track to take a narrow path to the left, which led uphill through slopes of tiny black vanilla orchids, bright blue trumpet gentians and delicate yellow pulsatilla anemones, with pink moss campion clinging to the rocks higher up. After a large patch of marshy ground we reached the first lake at Plan Torgnon and then continued steeply uphill to the beautiful Lac de l'Armina, a lovely peaceful spot for our picnic lunch. Facing us in the distance were the peaks of the Val d'Hérens: Mont Collon, Mont Blanc de Cheilon and the Pigne d'Arolla, the latter climbed by me forty years ago when I had skied the challenging *Haute Route* from Chamonix to Zermatt, one of my most rewarding mountaineering experiences.

Planets Trail below the Hotel Weisshorn



Lac de l'Armina and peaks of the Val d'Hérens

After lunch there was an undulating, rocky scramble to reach our final lake, the Lac de Bella Tola, 500m below the summit of the mountain. Although the views were still glorious, the slopes were now scarred by ski-lifts and avalanche barriers, and we hurried downhill to the Cabane de Bella Tola for a quick drink before returning on the funicular for a delicious Swiss fondue back at the hotel.



Walking down to the Illsee

On our third day we drove up to Chandolin, the highest village in the valley and one time home of the intrepid Swiss explorer Ella Maillart, where a small museum is a testament to her action-packed life. After taking the chairlift to Tsapé, we started on a circular walk which undulated past small lakes between the Schwarzhorn and the Illhorn. The path was flat as far as the Lac Noir, but then became a steep and rocky scramble down towards the Illsee 200m below. We were soon overtaken by a group of youngsters racing downhill, carrying what looked like fishing nets. We assumed these were for use in the lake, but when they stopped above it, we discovered they were a group of French botanists – and we never did find out what the nets were for! It was indeed a wonderful spot for botanising, the ground covered with a spectacular display of alpine flowers: gentians, alpenrose, pulsatilla anemones, white Paradise lilies and several different kinds of orchids in addition to the ubiquitous black vanilla.

After the lake the path climbed steeply uphill to reach the only patch of snow we crossed on any of our walks, just below the Pas de l'Illsee. And it was here too that we met the only foreign tourists we encountered, a group of Belgians



who commented that for them Switzerland was not far away, a mere 800km drive! We were now at the northern end of the Val d'Anniviers, and the view from here looked across the Rhône Valley to the peaks of the Bernese Oberland.

The signpost at the col stated that the summit of the Illhorn was just 30 minutes higher, but we were not tempted, preferring a gentle stroll downhill for a drink at the Cabane Illhorn before returning to our car at Chandolin.

Illsee with the peaks of the Bernese Oberland

Rhône valley from the Pas de l'Illsee

Cabane Illhorn



On our final day we drove down through Vissoie to the lovely village of Grimetz, with its window-boxes of colourful geraniums, and then up a long winding road to the high dam at Moiry and the lake beyond.

Rising above it were the Pigne de la Lé and Grand Cornier - which I had attempted nearly 50 years ago, resulting in frost-bitten finger tips. We had no such grandiose projects in mind on this occasion, our objective being the Lac des Autannes below the Col de Torrent, which we had crossed on our 2007 Valais Trek en route from Evolène in the Val d'Hérens to the Moiry dam. The slopes were covered with large yellow bellflowers and tiny green frog orchids, both rare but growing in profusion here, amongst many other flowers.

The high Moiry dam



Reflections in the Lac du Moiry



Flowery meadows above the dam



We soon reached the Alpage de Torrent, where cows grazed contentedly near a small farm, and continued up to the Lac des Autannes, at 2686m the highest point we reached on this year's meet. It was a lovely spot, with the snow-covered peaks of the Dent Blanche, Grand Cornier, Ober Gabelhorn and Zinal Rothorn rising above the Moiry glacier at the end of the valley. We could just make out walkers on the top of the col above us, but instead of continuing upwards, we returned back down to Moiry to begin our drive home.

Dent Blanche, Grand Cornier and Pigne de la Lé from the Alpage de Torrent

We had had a truly wonderful four days, with glorious weather every day and spectacular views and flowers, our only regret being that the rest of the group could not be with us.

Socially isolating at the Lac de Torrent

Photos by Pamela Harris and Alan Norton.



North/South Day Walk - September

Peak District Day Meet - Report by Andy Burton

This walk, which could also be titled 'What a difference three months make', was planned for a group of 6 in accordance with the prevailing Covid-19 rules for meeting and eating together, but in the end only three made it.



Ed, Steve and I met at the Royal Oak at Hurdlow and began the day with a hearty breakfast.

Ed and I had pre-walked most of the route one Monday in early July, but Saturday's in the Peak this year can be even more challenging than normal.

We started walking from the pub, through its busy campsite onto and along the last mile or so of the High Peak Trail, turning sharp right up across the fields towards the former Bull int' Thorn Hotel on the A515 ridge road that runs from Ashbourne to Buxton.

This property has been turned into a large café facility with a re-developed campsite at the rear, offering camping pods with hook-up, and new toilet and shower facilities built with Covid-19 issues in mind.

Camping pods and the view from Bull int Thorn campsite boundary



Turning left to the right of the Bull we walked alongside the campsite as the view opened out over towards Flagg and Monyash, which was heaving with motorcyclists, cyclists and other visitors all queuing outside Smithy's café.

Photo by Ed Bramley



At Flagg we struck across the fields to Town Head, up onto Flagg Lane again looking back across this wide bowl of a valley at the view. A right along Pillwell Lane and then left onto the footpath through an old mining rake led us down into the trees that shelter the natural spring that has supplied water for the village of Chelmorton for centuries.

Known locally as Illy-Willy Water for reasons that even our retired waste water expert did not wish to dwell on, this quickly leads to the first row of houses, and the tucked away Church Inn.



We quickly took our leave making our way onto Blackwell Lane towards Flagg joining the Limestone Way for a short while.



Steve and Ed on a bench in Monyash

Here we managed a relaxing pint, before continuing through the village and across the road up over a small ridge shown as Nether Low on the map, among patches of woodland and fields of cattle, dropping down into a dry valley across fields where all the hay had been cut since Ed and I last walked through.

Ed and Steve above Flagg with views back over Monyash

Passing over Sterndale Moor and crossing the A515 into fields that border Hindlow Quarry, we learnt a valuable lesson that little calves in 3 months grow into big boisterous and curious bullocks with strong gang-like behaviours. Steve, always the wise one! shouted Ed and I as we found ourselves confronted by said animals, clearly indicating his intentions, as he was already back at the stile and making his way onto the road.

Ed and I looked around and saw a gate nearby that would allow us to escape onto the roadside as well. This we did, and with careful field and fence management we avoided any further stand-offs, with the remaining herds of young cattle, as we passed by the quarry lands, alongside the mineral line, and out onto the little lane that now separates the working railway from its former continuation, now the High Peak Trail.



Clouds building up, photo by Ed Bramley

By now the weather had changed enough to make the small divert up through the Pomeroy farm campsite to sample their home-made ice creams, of little interest, and we hot-footed it back to the Royal, only to find it packed and unable to bring our table reservation forward (by nearly two hours). Only thing to do, go home.

I include Steve Caulton's email write up to give his take on the day. I hope you find it as amusing as I did.

Hello Andy and Ed

Thanks for the photos Andy. ME and Benjamin Button again.

Great day again. Thoroughly enjoyed it as usual.

Rounded it off with an impromptu tea and a beer to dull the aching legs.

Glad you both got something out of the walk. A new part of Derbyshire for me. I wasn't aware you'd taken me to the highest village in the County and therefore the highest pub.

Wondered why I felt lightheaded afterwards. I can blame either the altitude or the Pedigree bitter.

And all very interesting too. Not every day a sceptic like me is confronted with proof that too much red meat can be bad for you. Apparently it can go directly to your heart, but I didn't think it meant possibly straight through your ribs.

I'm pleased I took heed of medical advice to avoid too much at any one time.

I was relieved when you both sensibly abandoned that path in favour of getting out of that field before you became 'walker trampled' headline number three this month.

The only time I can truly say that part of the route was Bullocks and not offend anybody!.

Hope I see you both sooner rather than later.

Southern Day Meet - Report by Paul Stock

A very early start to drive down to Corfe Castle enabled most of the meet participants to arrive in the busy car park at Corfe Castle before 9am on a beautifully sunny and cloud free morning. Judy and Don had camped overnight at a nearby campsite and Rick had bivvied overnight at St Albans Head after a days climbing on the Sea cliffs the day before. It was good to see this meet being so well supported with 10 members attending.

After a quick assembly we set off on separate walks. Don had opted for a trek along the Purbeck ridge west towards Knowle Hill and then looping back to Corfe Castle connecting paths across the fields. The rest of us set off east through the village and past Corfe Castle towards the Poole Bay coastline.



James and Mike on the rising path out of Corfe Castle

We passed Challow Farm and made our way on a gently rising path to the top of the ridge. The visibility was superb with views deep into the Dorset countryside and out across Poole harbour as well as the start of the Jurassic coastline in the opposite direction. We were now on the Purbeck Way which is right on the crest of the ridge crossing Rollington Hill and Brenscombe Hill. We had broken down into smaller walking groups catching up after such a long break from club meets.

After passing the long barrow on Ailwood Down we continued along Kingswood Down to the final peak on that ridge at the Giants Grave. As the morning progressed we passed many others enjoying the sunshine either trail running, mountain biking or walking. The wind was picking up as we dropped down to meet the road between Studland Bay and Swanage.

After crossing the road we made our way along the signposted route towards Old Harry's Rocks. After a few hundred meters we turned to make a steep ascent of Ballard Down to the Obelisk on top of the ridge. This was an opportunity for a group photo stop. We continued on the Purbeck Way along Ballard Down and Studland Hill until the whole vista of Poole Bay and the Needles on the Isle of Wight opened up. It was strange to see approximately 7 or 8 cruise liners at anchor in the bay, presumably due to the current lull in business due to the Covid-19 epidemic. At the junction of paths returning



to the Studland Bay road and onwards to Old Harry's Rocks James made his way back towards Corfe Castle. The wind was now quite brisk and we stopped briefly for coffee on the cliff top at Ballard Point.



We made a swift visit to Old Nicks Ground to see Old Harry's Rocks, the natural arch and pinnacles of white chalk. The visibility was outstanding. After taking a few photos we returned to the top of Ballard Cliff for a lunch stop out of the wind.



After lunch we made our way back Corfe Castle along the path on the leeward side of the ridge. The group split with some deciding to return along the ridge top in reverse of our morning walk whilst the rest stayed on the lower path.

The group reassembled in Corfe Castle to enjoy some refreshments at the National Trust cafe underneath the shadow of Corfe Castle. We made contact with the Northern Day meet who were still out on the hills in Derbyshire.



It was a lovely walk with great company. 22.8 km (14 miles) and 737m (2417 ft) ascent and descent.

Attendees: James Baldwin, Don Hodge, Judy Renshaw, Mike O'Dwyer, Margaret O'Dwyer, Margaret Moore, Julie Fremantle, Rick Snell, Mike Goodyer and Paul Stock

ABMSAC AGM by Zoom - 6 February 2021

The Annual General Meeting was attended by around 30 members on Saturday evening, 6 February, via Zoom.

Andy Burton was elected President for the next three years, with Ed Bramley becoming Treasurer and Julie Freemantle the Membership Secretary. We wish them all success in their new roles.

The Treasurer reported that the finances were in good shape. The proposed amendments to the Rules of Association were passed.

James Baldwin, as Director of GSHL, gave an update on the Hut agreement and the maintenance work currently being carried out. In addition, Heather Eddowes has agreed to be Chair of the Hut Management Committee.

James was thanked for his last three years as President. Both James and Belinda have a long relationship with the ABM, going back to the 1960s, between them they have served 29 years on the Committee and organised meets. A big thank you to you both.

The agenda and minutes of the AGM are presented later in the Journal.

Report by Editor.

George Starkey Hut

Covid-19 and the George Starkey Hut - James Baldwin

The first inkling of a problem came in February 2020 just after the AGM weekend when SAC issued a guidance note to hut users in Switzerland. This was followed by various opinions about what to do, such as hand sanitiser and keeping two metres apart. There was a body of opinion that people had to make up their own minds, others felt that stopping access to the hut would affect the mental health of climbers and walkers but by the 18th March 2020 all the directors agreed that the hut should be closed with immediate effect and any deposits refunded or allocated to a date in the future. The President of AC confirmed that huts in France had been closed and restrictions were more onerous than currently in UK.

The end of year accounts to 30th June 2020 showed a loss despite a £10,000 grant from Eden District Council and a gift of £380 from AAC. A request for a rent reduction was not forthcoming.

BMC issued guidance about re-opening and the English Government set a date of 17th July 2020 for general opening of accommodation but with suitable precautions. Heather and Dave checked out the hut and approved the precautions taken to keep members safe (*see below*). A decision was taken to re-open the hut to members and their families but only over the weekends to allow 72 hours between visits. Marian undertook the task of checking the hut over between each visit.

This worked well but with the restriction of one family “bubble” per booking income was severely curtailed (*See Judy’s account below*).

A further lock down was imposed in December 2020 so the remaining bookings for the year were cancelled and the great majority of deposits refunded.

Income from bed nights for the period July until the end of February 2021 amounted to £780. A further grant of £8,840 from Eden District Council plus a refund of overpaid electricity charges of £2,101 has helped to mitigate the losses.

Repair work on the roof was sanctioned in January and completed at a cost of £8,300 resulting in a loss over the period July 2020 until the end of February 2021 of £9,500.

Restricted Visit to GSH 1-2 August 2020 - Dave Matthews and Heather Eddowes

In February 2020 the world became increasingly aware of the advance of Coronavirus and the UK went into a lockdown on 23rd March as the pandemic escalated.

Lockdown meant no travel outside one’s locality, stay at home and hotels, pubs and even mountain huts/hostels were closed. So the George Starkey Hut was closed and all meets that were due to be based there were cancelled.

Eventually the country was gradually released from the lockdown and hotels and huts could open again on a restricted basis.

How could the GSH be opened and be safe for our members? The ABMSAC committee debated this taking into account the numerous Covid restrictions and came up with a plan.

Marian, our hut Warden worked hard to enable this to happen. Firstly only 1 'bubble' unit would be allowed to use the hut at any one time and secondly to avoid deep cleaning after each residency from Friday to Monday maximum, the hut would be left vacant for 3 days. Thirdly the occupants of the hut would be required to do a 'Covid clean before leaving.

Was this all going to work? Were procedures clear and do-able? Volunteers were sought to do a trial run.

SO.....



Dave at Angle Tarn

As Covid restrictions were somewhat relaxed in summer 2020, GSH opened to single households on a trial basis and we (Heather and Dave) agreed to do a dry run. We drove up on Saturday 1st August, and after unloading into the Covid clean premises - thanks Marian - we walked up to Angle Tarn. We were blessed with fine weather. Lovely views.

On the way down we encountered a series of hikers on their way up, evidently for a spot of wild camping - 2 tents were already in place at the tarn. (Who's going to clean up?).

Anyway, back at the hut we ignored the pull of the White Lion (closed anyway?) and ate indoors. An early evening drive towards Pooley Bridge revealed almost every car parking space taken, official and unofficial,

and wild camping in full swing.

Back to the hut, game of hide and seek and then bedded down in the members' room; hard to sleep without the sound of communal snoring! Sometime on Saturday or maybe it was Sunday (!) both Mike Parsons and Marian popped in and we discussed the hut arrangements - worked fine for us - and a general chat.

Sunday morning lie in then a gentle stroll up to Lanty's tarn, dropping down the other side in time to observe local farmers conduct a most efficient sheep sort for shearing (try saying that with your teeth in) and back by lunchtime.



Early departure to drive home via Arnside, for a change, - had a drink outdoors at the Albion pub on the front- first pub pint for 5 months!

Wonderful! Altogether a pleasant little trip and for us the hut arrangements worked fine -all the usual facilities and no-one to keep you awake at night!

Editor: After the thumbs up from the trial the hut was then open for weekend use.

Judy has written a short account of her Meet at the Hut.

Hut meet report, Patterdale 23 August 2020 - Judy Renshaw



View over Ullswater

Don and I were lucky to be among the first people to use the hut after full lockdown in March. Since it was available only to single households, no one else could stay over. The weekend we had booked (22/23 August) turned out to be wet and windy, with the aftermath of storms Ellen and Francis.

However it was wonderful to be there, really good to see the village, hear the church clock chiming the hours and to make brief (socially distanced) visits to Marian and Mike next door. We had brought vast quantities of food with us, including many vegetables from the garden, so there was no need to eat out, even though most of the pubs were serving meals.

On Saturday, the windier day, I took a lift with Don to Aira Force and walked along just below the ridge to Glencoyne, which was reasonably sheltered, then attempted to go up towards Greenside but was turned back by fierce wind and rain. So instead I went over Sheffield Pike and found a path I had never noticed before from the col below Glenridding Dodd, over a couple of minor tops with cairns and down to Seldom Seen. From there I went back along the lakeside path encountering a few groups of people along the way. The rest of the walk had been very quiet.



On Sunday we were able to have a (more or less) real meet, with two groups out walking the hills. David, Daniel and Nicola joined me, going up to Boredale Hause and along the ridge of Beda Fell in intermittent rain, although it did allow us a couple of good snack stops and brief moments of sunshine. We then went up Hallin Fell, from where we had a good view of Ullswater and could watch the sailing boats and the steamers. We came back along Boredale and over the Hause, a route I have almost never taken before and which was pleasantly quiet (except for meeting two people whom Nicola and Daniel knew from Kendal, who used to live in the valley).

Meanwhile, Don and Marian did a local walk, initially to view the reinforcement work that had been undertaken to support the road and buildings in lower Grisedale. Then they went to see the short climbing crags below Birks and some old shielings (former huts) and charcoal burning sites in Glenamara Park.

Back at the hut, everyone was able to stop for tea and biscuits, in a suitably airy and distanced way, before setting off to their various homes, a good way to finish an enjoyable day. Don and I left on Monday, having cleaned up the hut with extra care, and called in on Heather Eddowes and Dave Matthews on our way back, in their lovely garden at Knutsford. It was a treat to have enjoyed the company so many ABM members over the weekend.



Present: Daniel and Nicola Albert, David Clear, Don Hodge, Judy Renshaw, Marian Parsons, Mike Parsons.

Development and Training

The Development and Training package was set in 2019 to encourage members who wish to develop their skills. The aim is to increase skills, promote the ABMSAC and increase membership.

The package was finalised by Paul Stock and approved by the committee. Heather Eddowes, Vice President, coordinates the scheme. To refresh your memories application requirements are presented below.

SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS TO ATTAIN OR REFRESH MOUNTAIN SKILLS

In the mountains there is always some level of risk associated with outdoor activities. These risks can be mitigated through exploiting skills to move over difficult territory such as rock, snow and ice safely. Being a good mountaineer takes a lot of practice, physical and mental strength, knowledge of terrains, understanding of the weather and proficiency in the use of technical equipment. The club is prepared to provide some financial assistance to enable club members to attain or maintain some of the skills and qualities necessary to become proficient in a variety of mountain activities.

Personal development opportunities include practical or theoretical training courses, mentoring sessions or participating in club meets where multi-activities are available or experiences are shared. (For example: Navigation courses, Winter Skills courses, Mountain Biking courses and Basic Snowshoeing courses). Club members can avail themselves of this support providing that they meet certain criteria and agree to follow the simple process highlighted below.

Criteria:

- Club members are deemed eligible to apply for financial assistance once they have been a member for two years and have attended at least three club meets in the previous year.
- Club members are only allowed to apply for financial assistance once per year.
- All club members in receipt of financial assistance will be required to attend at least three club meets during the year following the personal development opportunity.
- Club members are required to be covered by the relevant insurance during the personal development opportunity.
- The level of financial assistance provided is to be determined by the club committee.
- The club committee decisions are final and there is no appeals procedures.
- All applications for financial assistance for personal development opportunities will be approved by the club committee.
- All club members in receipt of financial assistance will be required to create a short article for the club journal on their experience.
- Where multiple participants of the same personal development opportunity exist a joint article is to be produced.
- The club will not be responsible for any additional costs caused by non attendance.

Process:

- Club members will apply individually for financial assistance with a simple application form downloaded from the Club page on the ABMSAC website and forward to the clubs Vice President at least one month prior to the personal development opportunity.
- Where multiple club members are applying for financial assistance to attend the same training event a single form is to be submitted by the meet organiser at least three months prior to the personal development opportunity.
- A copy of the relevant insurance cover is to be sent with the application form.
- Journal articles are to be submitted within one month of the personal development opportunity or within the time scales set by the clubs journal editor.
- If the club member cannot attend the personal development opportunity once booked it is their responsibility to find a replacement or pay any costs incurred.

To enable the measurement of the success of this process the club committee will:

- Monitor the financial expenditure on personal development opportunities at each club committee meeting.
- Report the costs within the annual club financial statement.
- Review the total number of personal development opportunity applications at each committee meeting and report the number of successful applications at the clubs AGM.

Two members had their applications for training approved and were able to complete the training before the March Covid-19 lockdown. The reports are presented below.

Navigation Skills Course – Plas y Brenin 13-15 March, 2020 - Report by Julie Jones



Cairngorm snow machine

It all began at Glenmore Lodge in Scotland on New Year's Day 2020 with the annual family gathering for Hogmanay in the Highlands where successive green winters have left the mountains unseasonably accessible.

Ski runs are swathes of brown heather and a snow-making machine now has pride of place in the car park of the upper lodge obscuring the sweeping views across Loch Morlich to the Monadhliath range and beyond.

The bright young things set off at a pace up what was once the White Lady Chair Lift, properly dressed and with plenty of experience in the hills, confident that mobile phone technology, with GPS, what3words.com and nefarious apps, would guide the way or summon rescue in an emergency. That is, until the battery fails. The Met Office and MWIS have both advised ... 'your phone battery will drain faster than

you think in the cold.' – BMC Summit magazine Winter 2019.

Peering down into the gaping yawn of Loch A'an on the featureless Cairngorm plateau is not a place you want to be without a map and compass when the weather closes in. Recent treks in the Himalaya had encouraged a somewhat lazy disposition as groups simply follow the tail of a temperamental yak but, nearer to home, ill-advised reliance on mobile phones meant that navigation and traditional map reading skills needed to be revisited without delay.

By coincidence, news from the ABM AGM in January that personal development courses were to be supported by the club was a further call to action and so it was that a navigation refresher course at Plas y Brenin was arranged at relatively short notice.



Truthfully, it's not the easiest place to get to without a car but as a centre of excellence in all things mountaineering, it has few equals. Rather than classroom studies, the weekend was to be two full days around Snowdon including after dark work on Saturday evening.

The day dawned with high winds and sheeting rain. Of course it did. It looked as though smudgy notes and a slippery compass would be the order of the day but the local forecast said the weather front would pass by lunchtime. Of course it didn't.

After a fabulous fry up and a few cursory words on health and safety, we were straight onto the hill and straight to the point of the exercise. With a pleasingly grown up group of only 3, it was virtually one to one tuition so we learned and re-learned the basics pretty quickly. Those of us more familiar with the standard

one inch to the mile were teased into the world of metric measurement and the romer scale kept maths to a minimum.

In the peaceful valley below Creigiau Geualit, we were collectively horrified by the approach of half a dozen off-road motor bikes who assured us that the local authority had deemed the sharing of bridleways to be 'perfectly legal'. Hmm. Dismissing this fossil fuelled intrusion, we were soon off the marked footpaths and climbing up Crimpiau with flanks of dense heather, mossy rocks, fragmented trails and some scrambling.

We departed the top on a hastily-reckoned compass bearing despite a sustained onslaught of 'jet washing', a mountaineering term for atrocious weather, which hosed us

Llynn Idwal



back down to the Brenin and a classroom session on contours.

Overnight homework of imaginary route planning was analysed and we were back out by 9am feeling increasingly competent and confident. The mini-van headed up the Ogwen Valley (with a smiling nod to MP), and there followed an intensive day of practice with bearings around Cwm Idwal, up Devil's Kitchen, and further training on relocation, aspect of slope, back bearings and catching features. It was a tired but happy posse of navigators who tottered back into the centre at the end of the day.

It is said that life comprises learning, earning and returning and that knowledge is power. On high ground, it can mean the difference between safety and danger and it is never too late to learn. The good news is that the instructor wants to join the ABM – job done!

Report on avalanche awareness course at Glenmore Lodge, March 2020 - Report by Rick Snell



This was a 2-day course aimed at ski tourers and freeriders. I assume freeriders are daredevil stuntsters doing aerial loops and the like while descending at breakneck speed, but really I have no idea.

Anyway, the course was a useful overview of the various ways to assess avalanche risk and make safe decisions in winter conditions, while accepting that the risk can never be entirely removed when moving on snowy slopes. ABMSAC kindly paid for 50% of this winter treat, for which they very reasonably require a report, so I'll try to make it useful! Notes of what I got from it will be best, so here goes.

Planning your trip is key. This involves firstly studying weather forecasts from met office, MWIS, YR, etc, and detailed study of the avalanche forecast from SAIS if in Scotland, keeping in mind previous weather so that you can build an idea of which side of the hills may have windslab and which side will be scoured of deep snow.

Temperature changes are also a vital consideration, with a rise in temperature leading initially to increased instability, but a diurnal rise and fall reducing instability due to partial thawing and then consolidation. A continuous period of low temperature can increase instability by encouraging growth of faceted crystals within weak layers in the snowpack, these crystals slide better than snowflakes or the small rounds which they otherwise become.

Planning will also mean plotting a route, and importantly, alternatives to be taken if conditions are not as expected, including the alternative of abandoning the day if necessary. Plotting the route involves taking into account the altitude, aspect, and angle of the slopes involved, and relating these to the forecast and history of recent snowfall and wind.

Angle of slope is determined by spacing of contours and can be measured, there are cards available with marked edges made to translate the contour spacing to slope angle.

Table 3 Showing the relationship between slope angle and the spacing of thick contour lines.

SLOPE ANGLE	1:50,000		1:25,000	
	EXACT SPACING OF THICK CONTOUR LINES BETWEEN TOP OF MAP	NO. OF THICK CONTOUR LINES IN 1cm OF SLOPE	EXACT SPACING OF THICK CONTOUR LINES BETWEEN TOP OF MAP	NO. OF THICK CONTOUR LINES IN 1cm OF SLOPE
10°		2		1
15°		2.6		1.3
20°		3.5		1.8
25°		4.3		2.2
30°		6		3
35°		7		3.5
40°		8		4
45°		10		5
50°		12		6
55°		14		7
60°		16		8

The spacing of contour lines tells you how steep a slope is. Since the fine contour lines begin to be faded out above slope angles of 27° it is best to rely on the thicker contour lines to estimate steepness. Table 3 tells you how many thick contour lines there are in 1cm on the map for a range of slope angles from 10° - 60°. The table has been reproduced to scale so that the spacing of the thick contour lines is exactly as it would appear on 1:50,000 and 1:25,000 scale maps.

The variation in spacing will also tell you if the slope is convex, which will vastly increase the avalanche risk. Riskiest angle is 30-45 degrees. Important to involve all members of the group in all decisions, to reduce the chance of missing any people problems developing.

Also worth noting "key places" along the route at which to stop and check with everybody whether the plan is on course or needs adapting, again making sure to involve every team member.

Once out, study of the landscape can give clues as to snowpack depth, and recent wind direction and strength, which in turn might help determine which slopes present greater risk. Slightly darker areas of snow can be wind-scoured older snow, windslab is more chalky white. Apart from altitude, aspect and angle of a slope, the last of the four A's is anatomy of the slope, i.e. is it flat or concave or convex, and also, (which is a complete unknown once it is snow covered,) is it uneven? Uneven slopes can gather powder in the hollows and be bare on the hillocks, so that the next snowfall means there are boundaries between layers in a patchy pattern over the slope ("spatial variability").

This can result in large variations in stability of the snowpack, one of the reasons that digging snow pits to check layers now carries slightly less weight than formerly in analysis of stability.

Table showing relationship between slope angle and contour lines

Snow pits still have their place, and can be done quite quickly, just one by two feet top surface area cut vertical sides to make a column, with ski stick or shovel, through full thickness of the snowpack, then put the shovel blade flat on top and start tapping, gently at first, to get some idea how much pressure is required to cause separation of layers and whether the breaks propagate along to the non-pressured part.

Hoar frost on the snow surface can form a particularly weak layer if more snow falls on it, then if rain percolates through that snow layer and lubricates the weak layer the snowpack can slide off.

Another bunch of factors to be aware of when in the mountains are the "heuristic traps", which include various assumptions we all tend to make subconsciously which can increase the risk. These cause one to let down one's guard and stop thinking objectively, and include 1) Familiarity with the terrain or the routine or the team 2) over commitment to the goal, making it difficult to turn back 3) "expert halo", failing to question the decisions of the team leader 4) "social proof" e.g. Seeing tracks showing others have been there and not had a problem.

In other words there's a hell of a lot to consider if you want a low-risk trip. It hasn't quite persuaded me to take up knitting instead, but certainly given me plenty to keep my mind busy on future winter trips! Enjoy your trips!

Member's Articles

Sahara 2020 - *by Judy Renshaw*

Although most of 2020 had to be spent at home, I was lucky enough to fit in an unusual trek before the first lockdown had been considered. The suggestion came from fellow ABM members with whom I shared a most enjoyable jaunt to M'Goun in Morocco in 2019 – so thanks to Ed and others for this! Several of them had made a trip to the edge of the Sahara a few years earlier, and had said what a great experience it was, so I felt I really had to try it for myself.

I used the same trekking company, KE, and chose February as recommended, which also happened to fit nicely into half term. At that time of year it was hot during the day and cool but not really cold at night. We were lucky to have good weather throughout the trip, although storms do often occur in the winter months.

I left on 15 February, with some anxiety due to Storm Dennis threatening to prevent most flights from leaving. Fortunately it only delayed ours and gave us a bumpy first hour. We had to complete health questionnaires amid developing concern about the Covid crisis, which had not yet got started in the UK by then. To my relief and pleasure I was met at Marrakech by Rachid, the guide who had taken us over M'Goun the previous summer. At the hotel I met up with the other six members of the group who turned out to be great companions, with very varied backgrounds. There were two from Canada (living in France), one from Japan, one from Australia and three of us from the UK. We all still keep in touch on Facebook. It was too late to go far that evening so we had dinner in the hotel, went to the cashpoint and got ourselves ready for the morning departure.



Plentiful mint tea

It took a full day to travel South East to the edge of the desert, crossing a high pass in the Atlas Mountains on the way. We made a few roadside stops including one for Moroccan mint tea, another for a tagine lunch (Moroccan hotpot cooked in a dish shaped like a witch's hat) in the town of Zagora and purchasing large canisters of water and, importantly, for buying headscarves for the desert trek. After a day or so, once we had all learned how to tie the scarves, we discovered that they are the best way to protect yourself from sun, wind and sand. I still have mine but the opportunities to wear it again will be sadly limited.

We arrived at the village of Ouled Driss in the early evening, where there was basic accommodation in a 'fixed camp' and an excellent tagine cooked by our own crew. At this stage the ground was sandy but we were still in a village!



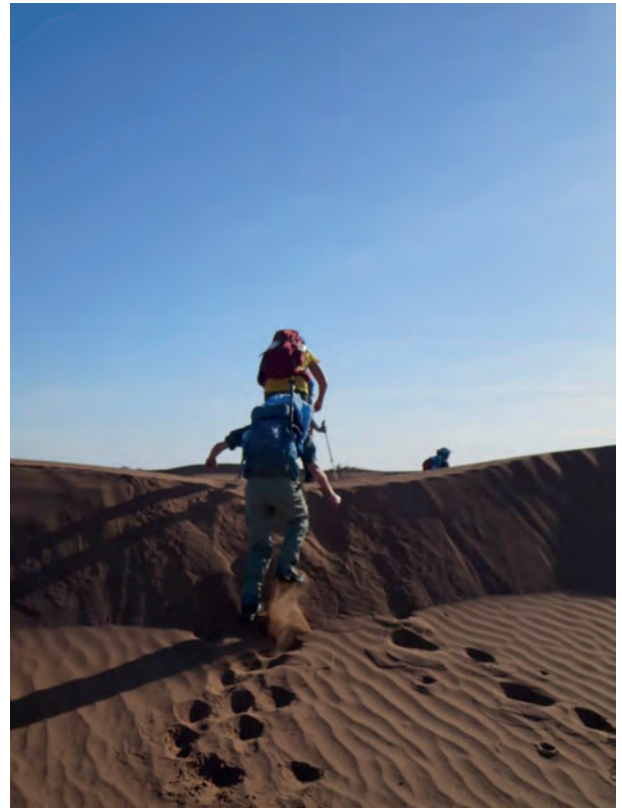
In the morning I spent an entertaining hour or so watching camels being loaded up for several trek groups including ours. The sights, sounds and smells of these remarkable animals will stay in my memory for some time. We set off before 9.00 (which felt quite late) along a quiet village road then into the dunes themselves. The four-day route took us out into the dunes to one high point then back along the dry bed of the River Draa.

Sunset at the fixed camp

Ascending a dune on the soft side

Walking in the soft dunes was challenging for everyone and we rapidly learned that it was easier wherever there was a harder, pebbly surface. Dunes are one-sided, due to the prevailing wind. When you walk in the leeward direction you have a shallow, reasonably firm slope to ascend and a steep, soft slope to go down, which is fairly easy though sand gets into your boots most of the time. Going the other way is much harder, as you have to ascend a steeper, soft slope into which you sink with every step. It took me quite a while to find the technique of allowing yourself to sink before attempting to step up, as the instinctive reaction is to keep moving, in an attempt to avoid sinking. Had I discovered this sooner I would have saved quite a bit of energy and avoided two aching hips.

Rachid wore sturdy sandals throughout the trek which he clearly found comfortable, but no one else was tempted to do this. I wore light boots with thin short gaiters, designed for running, which managed to keep out most of the sand, but all the other people seemed to get boot fulls. Camels, of course, have the best footwear as their wide feet prevent them from sinking so far and the sand falls off them easily.



Once into the real sand dunes the scenery was more varied than I had anticipated. Flat, pebbly areas were interspersed with dunes of various sizes and scrubby trees that provided shade for snack stops and a long lunch break each day. The main party of camels and tent men went ahead while one camel and the cook walked with us. Occasionally we saw other trains of camels passing. On the first afternoon we visited a small shrine surrounded by a dry stone wall. Elsewhere we saw the remains of houses as the area had once been inhabited before the river had changed its course, leaving this area totally dry.



Lunch each day consisted of fresh salads with pasta, couscous or rice and either tinned fish, meat, cheese or omelette. Plentiful mint tea was also available. Snacks of dates, peanuts and miniature spiced biscuits were provided at the stops in between meals, so no one went hungry. On arrival into camp the tents went up quickly (all done by our crew) and we were provided with more mint tea, later followed by dinner of couscous or tagine with fresh vegetables and meat for those who wanted it.

The first camp was in a simple dip between dunes, with no habitation or other camps in sight for as far as you could see. We all took numerous photos of the beautiful sunset over the dunes, with our camels silhouetted against the horizon. Later the stars were spectacularly clear and bright. One member of our group was a teacher of astronomy, so she and her husband were able to point out the constellations, including several that would normally be difficult for us to see in a more populated setting.

The next morning was cool enough to wear a couple of layers of clothing for a few hours. After a fairly leisurely start and some easy walking it warmed up, so the layers came off and plenty of suncream went on. The headscarves proved their worth, as it was just about possible to shade your neck and face from the sun in any direction. Around midday we had a long lunch stop, with the opportunity to rest and explore the surrounding dunes.



Loading the camels



The afternoon was hotter but we arrived into our camp area quite early. We could rest for a while but not yet 'wash' (with wet wipes) as we were going out again later.



The group on the dune

The evening trip was one to remember for ever. We walked for about an hour to Zahar, the largest dune in this part of the Sahara, to watch the sunset.



Dune patterns in the evening sun

Although a number of other trek groups had also gathered, this did not spoil the atmosphere of reverence for the dune and its surroundings. Rachid and several other guides wore special costumes, in honour of the desert which he clearly loves and respects. The evening light was wonderful for picking out the shadows and contours of the dunes, different on each side, and changing as the sun went lower, finally turning pink as it disappeared. We returned to camp in gathering darkness for a good dinner, a little more stargazing and a welcome rest.



Walking towards the high dune

The following morning seemed cooler and took longer to warm up than on previous days, though later turning hot and tiring, as we were crossing most of the dunes from their steep side. I noticed many trails of insects and other desert creatures so took several photos. By lunchtime we reached the riverbed of the Draa where we had a shady stop. The afternoon walk was easier but a little less scenic along the riverbed.



After reaching camp soon after 4pm we realised why this spot had been chosen - there was a well with some real water in which to wash!

At first everyone sat around drinking the usual large quantities of mint tea, then I went to investigate the well. I borrowed some large bowls from the cook tent and hauled up an extremely heavy bucket of water (with help from a fellow trekker). Then we had the joy of splashing and washing in this delightful stuff and putting on some clean(ish) clothes. We three women went first to wash, followed by the two couples, then the camel man took each of his animals in turn to drink from a trough he filled beside the well.

Since there were more trees and bushes in this area, firewood was available and the crew members had started a fire.



We gathered more branches and watched the cook making bread. He had already mixed a large lump of dough made from wheat and maize flour, then kneaded it on a cloth and placed it in carefully prepared embers to rise and cook, turning it a few times. In the tent he scraped off the sand and black edges before cutting it into chunks for us to try. It was warm and soft in the middle, crusty outside and the most delicious thing I had eaten all holiday. Though all the food was good, this was amazing. Dinner, though up to standard, was an anti-climax in comparison. Sadly, though well deserved, the remainder of the loaf and a second one all went to the crew.

Later we put down groundsheets for an extended session of star watching, lying on our backs to watch the display. With the aid of borrowed binoculars and guidance from a colleague I was able to see groups of stars, such as the Pleiades, which I had not even known about before.

We made an earlier start on the last day of the trek, to follow the river bed and some areas of dunes - mainly in the more difficult direction – to the fixed camp we where we had stayed at the start. While walking it was hot and some people took turns to walk in the shade of a camel (renamed a ‘cambrella’). However, later it was windy and cooler so we sheltered by an old wall at lunchtime in order to stay warm enough. On reaching the camp, everyone became absorbed in catching up with emails as well as the luxury of getting clean again. We presented the cook and the camel men with their tips and said our farewells.



Judy in the dunes



The camel train



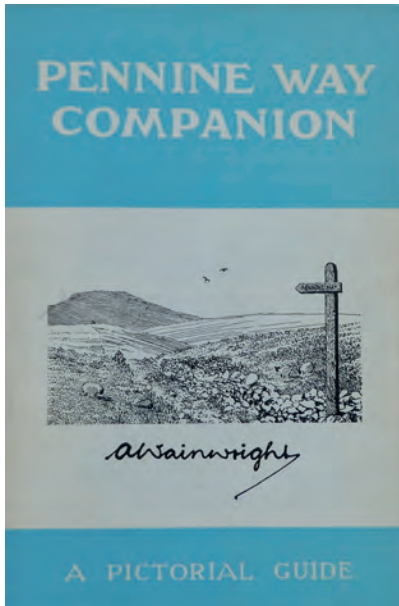
The guide, Rachid

The long journey back to Marrakech the following day was punctuated by a stop at the Tikha Pass through the Atlas Mountains for photos, souvenir buying and lunch at a restaurant. After settling back in the same hotel in Marrakech, we had a short time to explore the city before our final dinner at a rooftop restaurant overlooking the main square. I did the 'thank you and farewell' speech to Rachid, having gathered contributions from everyone. I left for home the next morning as I had had the opportunity to see much of Marrakech the previous year.

Though not mountainous, this was one of the most memorable treks I have undertaken. It was truly wonderful to experience a small part of the Sahara Desert, its people and how some of them live. I was also lucky to share it with a great group of people, from diverse backgrounds and places.

Virtual Pennine Way Walk Started on 23 March 2020 - by Mike Goodyer

Way back in the early 70's I completed my Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition along part of the Pennine Way. During the training weekends, based at Edale, we had many forays onto the Kinderscout and Bleaklow Moors and I came to have a loving respect for the peat hags. In 1974 I bought the Pennine Way Companion, a pictorial guide, by A Wainwright – fully intending to undertake the long distance Way. University and the European Alps took over my next few years and the opportunity slowly slipped away and the book remained on the 'climbing shelf' of my bookcase.



Now with the start of the lockdown associated with the Covid-19 pandemic I wanted to give my daily exercise allowance a purpose. I logged my steps taken each day and marked my progress along the (virtual) Pennine Way, using the Pennine Way Companion as a guide.

The journey started on Monday 23 March in Edale.

After a virtual pint in the Nags Head the walk started up to the Kinder plateau, heading towards the Downfall. The first week took me through Derbyshire, Cheshire and into the Yorkshire and Lancashire to Stoodley Pike in the Upper Calder Valley. Back in the 70's this is where we started our Gold DofE expedition.

A total of 41 miles. The weather was warm and dry with mainly sunny days.

Week 2 - took me over Heptonstall Moor, Top Withins (Wuthering Heights) heading towards Lothersdale to Gargrave. The next few miles to Malham Tarn is one of my favourite walks. The weather continued to be dry and sunny.

By the end of the week I was at Malham, a total of 77 miles.

Week 2 -Top Withins in the 1990s





Week 3 - Malham Cove in 2019

Week three - was totally in the Yorkshire Dales – lovely walking and running countryside. The walk took me over Malham Cove to the Tarn, Fountains Fell onto Penyghent, over Great Shunner Fell to Keld (Coast to Coast Path crosses here – a Wainwright route). Then it was up over Slightholme Moor to Bowes after popping into the Tan Hill Inn for another virtual pint!

The week ended just North of Bowes at Race Yate at 134 miles. Over halfway now.

The weather continues to be outstanding with temperatures well into the 20's.

So the walk continues into **week 4** heading for Teesdale, with a visit to the delightful Low Force then onto the spectacular High Force and finally the massive Cauldron Snout.

Next stop is the village of Dufton over High Cup.

Now for the highest part of the journey - the traverse of Cross Fell - starting with Knock Fell then over Great and Little Dun Fell finishing at 2930ft on Cross Fell summit. Passing the relics of the lead mines it is a long descent to Garrigill, with fine views of the South Tyne and then along the river to Alston.

The way to Kirkhaugh goes past a Roman fort, Whitley Castle after 187 miles.

Just one rainy day this week! Next week heading for the Roman Wall!



Week 4 - Low Force in the 1980s

Week 5 - Roman Wall in 2010



Week 5 - continues to Slaggyford following the route of the Roman road before joining the South Tyne. The Maiden Way (Roman road) is rejoined a little further on, passing the derelict Lambley Colliery and on to Round Hill and Wain Rigg – the minor foothills of the Northern end of the Pennine range.

The Roman wall beckons as the 14th century Pele tower, Thirlwell Castle, is reached. There is no sign of the wall on the ground, but the tower was built with some plundered stone! The route follows Hadrian's Wall for the next few miles, passing milecastles and restored parts of the wall. After a short detour to Housesteads Roman Fort the route leaves the wall at Rapishaw Gap to head north again and on to Bellingham.

Crossing some moorland Wark Forest is reached, the most southern of the Border Forests. Quickly through the forest on the rides and across countryside to reach the Capital of the North Tyne valley – Bellingham.

Beyond Bellingham there is 4 miles of featureless moorland, but on a clear day you get to a view of the long line of the Cheviot Hills, passing Deer Play and Lord's Shaw before reaching the Gib Shiel road at 232 miles. The end is in sight.....

Week 6 - heads off to the Cheviot Hills. Mixed weather with two windy and rainy days in between the sunshine. Up from the Gib Shiel road past the Pepperbox monument on Padon Hill and on to Brownrigg Head before entering another forest – Redesdale Forest – to arrive at Byrness. This is the last community before the final 29 miles over the wild and uninhabited Cheviot Hills. Completed two KIMMs, 1988 and 2002 in this area – stunning.



Wainwright says “this is not only the longest stretch of the Pennine Way without habitation, but one of the toughest, a test of endurance”! So off to Ogre Hill to get the first sight of the Border Fence. On past the Chew Green Roman Camp along the Roman road, Dere Street following the Border Fence, apart from the quick diversion to The Cheviot, and onto The Schil before descending into Scotland to finish at the village green in Kirk Yetholm, 270 miles completed.

I'm not entitled to the free half of Pennine Pint at the Border Hotel, but in my mind I've quaffed it. Many thanks to the Pennine Way Companion for guiding me along the way, maybe one day I will actual complete the walk.

Now for the next virtual challenge.....5 May 2020

LLANGOLLEN ESCAPADE 13-15 Aug – by Heather Eddowes, Dave Matthews

The niece's wedding was postponed but the hotel was still booked in Llangollen with reassurances of Covid-19 measures in place - so we went. Very glad we did too.

Dave and I arrived midday on the Thursday with an excellent weather forecast. Decided to drive up to the Horseshoe Pass for a wander and had a look at the ancient Pillar near the Abbey on our decent. Having settled into Gales Hotel (1754) and eaten at their newly created outside hospitality area consisting of a horse box bar and separated seating areas we set to and planned our excursions.



Dave at the Castle ruins

We descended down the eastern path to traverse back westwards around the base of the castle hill. A path NW drew us past Dinbren Hall and then below the steep, fern slopes of Fron Fawr to Abbey Cottage. A sharp left saw us on a southerly path adjacent to the Eglwyseg River, opposite the "Valle Crucis Abbey" and its campsite, which we followed back to the main road and Llangollen. The Horsebox Bar was calling us!

Friday. - Castell Dinas Bran We set off over the town centre River Dee bridge and up a footpath which took us over the Llangollen Canal and past Dave's old school to the more open slopes leading on and up to the hill and the ruins of the castle.

The weather cleared to sunshine and superb views. We explored the castle ruins - an iron age fort becoming a 13th C castle on a conical hill with 360* views.

Heather at the castle with a view of the Eglwyseg Escarpment



Saturday - Eglwyseg Escarpement The sun was shining brightly. It felt like we were abroad.



Heather on top of escapement

We drove to Rock Farm, halfway along (& below, of course) the Eglwyseg Escarpement and managed to squeeze the car off the road.

As we walked back towards the farm the magnificent limestone escarpment shone above us. Just above the farm we picked out a path going up the gully (due E) so decided to follow this. It took us to another path which meandered along the upper edge of the escarpment both north and southwards. Interestingly neither of these paths are marked on the recently bought OS map despite there being way marker posts along the top.

We enjoyed fabulous views over towards the Horseshoe Pass and encountered only 3 small groups of other walkers.



Dave showing the way

We headed northwards and before World's End turned a sharp left and descended to the Offa's Dyke path and so southwards on the undulating path through the screes of the lower slopes. It was equal to an Alpine experience - clear blue sky, hot sun and towering limestone buttresses - even a couple of climbers calling on their route.



As we arrived back at Rock Farm we spied, adjacent to the path, an old lime kiln replete with a full grown tree growing from it's centre! A closer look was necessary of course.

A fantastic walk of 8km, which could easily be doubled by taking on the whole Eglwyseg Escarpement.

We had an evening drive back after a splendid 3 days. So glad we didn't cancel.

A brief interlude in the Lakes – by Ed Bramley

With the Daves booking a weekend at the hut, I arranged to meet up with them for a socially distanced day out on the hills, with local knowledge of the paths provided by Mike Parsons.



The previous day had been raining in the Lakes, and the last of it was just clearing off as we headed across the bridge towards Side Farm, all of us pleased we were out for a walk. As we headed out in the direction of Hartsop, the trees around Goldrill Beck were as resplendent as ever, the twists of the bark and the mosses on the trunks shown off to great effect.



Group on the bridge over the beck

Once over the footbridge crossing Angletarn Beck, Mike's local knowledge started to kick in. "There's a little track up through the woodland on the left – avoids the trade route up to Angle tarn" – Sure enough, there was a feint path linking up to the higher track leading towards Hayeswater – Why had we not been on this before, with great views straight into Threshthwaite Glen. Whilst it had stopped raining, the clouds boiling over the edge of High Street and the strengthening winds gave us a good indication that it was no longer a summers day.

Another of Mike's local knowledge tracks saw us making a rising traverse on another old horse trod on the flank of Brock Crag, rising up beside Calfgate Gill, to eventually join the 'trade route'. Immediately it was clear that the wind was going to have a major influence on the day, pushing us bodily around on the track. It didn't take long to reach the conclusion that our original route would have all the feeling of being tumbled around in a washing machine for the day, and wanting to enjoy the walk, rather than just get round, we hastily revised our plans.



Swirling cloud and high winds across the fells

Picking up the path around the north side of Rest Dodd, we then swung round to meet the peat covered shoulder of The Nab, with its many shallow groughs dissecting our path, and being vaguely reminiscent of being on Kinder. Before descending to the plateau we were lucky enough to see a herd of deer crossing the path in front of us. The path marked down the east side of The Nab initially takes a little finding, but once on, we had another old horse trod heading down into the valley, only made more difficult by the proliferous bracken further downhill.





Passing near the red bungalow at the head of Martindale valley, we contoured round to Dalehead, and a good track up to Bedafell Knott. Straightforward, apart from the few hundred yards around Dalehead, where the path on the map was rather clearer than the actual track on the ground.

Before long we were back at Boredale Hause and I was contemplating the usual descent back to the hut – but our local variations were not yet finished! One last horse trod connected with the Brothers Water path up to the Hause, providing a wide track and great views back up the valley.

A last variation saw us on the river bank track, right the way back to our starting bridge. Back at the hut, a helping of tea and biscuits provided the perfect end to the day, before the journey home.



Patterdale on the way down from the Hause

Autumn in Zermatt - by Pamela Harris

Those of us who live in Switzerland are doubly fortunate, for not only do we live in a beautiful country but also we are free to travel to enjoy it, with none of the restrictions of neighbouring European countries now in lockdown. Mindful that this might change and Switzerland itself join the lockdown any time, Alan and I decided in late October to spend a few days in Zermatt while we could still get there.

I have visited Zermatt many times since coming to work in Switzerland more than fifty years ago, but I still feel the same thrill when the train from Täsch pulls into the station and I see the Matterhorn rising above the roofs of the buildings. Over the years Zermatt has changed exponentially, with the building of more and more hotels and cable-car installations, and an influx of tourists from all over the world. However, on this occasion it was quieter than I have ever seen, with no flag-waving groups hurrying for the Gornergrat railway, the only tourists being from Switzerland itself.



The Matterhorn at Moosjensee

It had been very cold the previous week, with snow even as low as the village, but our arrival coincided with blue skies and brilliant sunshine. Since the higher trails were covered in snow, we opted for lower-level walks, the first starting from the funicular at Sunnegga. From there we set out on the “Lakes Trail”, winding gently uphill towards Fluhalp. I had come here on my very first trip to Zermatt in the early months of 1965, and this was where, also for the first time, I had strapped sealskins to the base of my skis to trudge up through

deep powder snow, rewarded by an exhilarating descent into Zermatt itself, with magnificent views of the Matterhorn all day. The views were equally splendid on this occasion, perhaps even more so with the autumn colours of the larch trees shining in the sunshine. We reached the snow-line at the small frozen lake of Grindjisee, so turned downhill to

the lake of Moosjensee, with the Matterhorn a perfect back-drop. The trail became easier as we got lower, and after a welcome drink at one of the cafés still open at Findeln, we made our way back into the town.

As we did so, memories of earlier visits came to mind, for it was from Zermatt that I had climbed my first 4000 metre peak, the Breithorn. Now it is an easy climb of two hours from the top of the Kleine Matterhorn cable-car, but we made the ascent in 1969, before this lift was built, making it considerably more challenging. And it was from Zermatt that I had made my own attempt on the Matterhorn almost half a lifetime ago. Like most Zermatt guides, mine had been born in the village and had climbed it many times himself, so knew the route well. We roped up at the Hörnli Hut, setting out when it was still dark, and at the start I had no problem following him up the steep rocks. But as we approached the Solvay hut high on the ridge, dawn began to break and it became light. I made the mistake of looking down, and there was Zermatt thousands of metres directly below. I froze, and although the guide managed to persuade me to continue for a short time, we both had to admit that I was not going to get to the top. Now I am content with just looking at this majestic peak, and with less energetic but equally enjoyable exploits.

One of these was on our recent visit when we discovered the “Kulturweg”, or Culture Trail, leading from Zermatt to the hamlet of Zmutt, 300 metres above. It is an easy trail of about four kilometres, with lovely views of the Matterhorn all the way along, and a welcoming restaurant on arrival, with a terrace in the sunshine for my favourite Valaisian lunch of *rösti mit spiegelei*. Previously called the “Panoramaweg”, in July 2019 the trail was re-named and equipped with 14 information boards to show what life was like for farming communities in bygone days. The trail starts just above the church, where it turns off the main street past some of the oldest buildings in Zermatt, dating back to the 1800s. These are large wooden store-houses, known as “raccards”, perched on small mushroom-shaped pillars of stone to keep out rats and mice. From there it climbs up more steeply to reach the small settlement of Herbrigg, where we found an information board pointing to the oldest barn in Europe, built in 1261.



Barn at Herbrigg.

A higher trail branched off from here toward Hubel, but the “Kulturweg” flattened out to contour along the hillside through the trees, the information boards full of interest. They pointed to a centuries old apple tree, which bore fruit at the unusually high altitude of 1750m; a lynx trap dating from 1720; and a circular stone cattle pen. The trail itself had been surfaced with stone slabs centuries ago and was lined by low walls. At the entrance to Zmutt there were more wooden hay barns and old houses, one of which had been built in 1551 and belonged to the Inderbinen family, so the information boards told us. In the early years of the twentieth century, the Inderbinens, together with their nine children, spent every summer and autumn up here looking after their sheep and cows, planting vegetables and collecting wood.

Ulrich, the second son of this family, grew up to become the most famous guide in Zermatt, where he was affectionately known as the “King of the Alps”. Born in December 1900, he lived until 2004, dying peacefully at the age of 103 in the house he had built himself for his young family. The story of his life, told in the 1996 biography “As old as the century”, makes fascinating reading, for it is also the story of Zermatt’s evolution from a small isolated village, cut off for months every winter, to one of the world’s top resorts all year round. The first mountain he climbed was the Matterhorn, and this was not until he was 20 when he decided to train as a guide and needed proof of his ability. He went on to climb it at least 370 times and became a well-loved figure in Zermatt, never changing his simple habits, and never owning a car, a bicycle or a telephone. At the age of 95 he was still an active guide and still winning ski races, for he was the only competitor in his age category, as he himself pointed out!



The last time Ulrich climbed the Matterhorn was in 1990, a few months before his 90th birthday. This was on 14th July, as part of the 125th anniversary celebrations of the first ascent in 1865. He reached the summit only four hours after leaving the Hörnli Hut, and was the centre of attention on his return to Schwarzsee. And this is when I saw him, for Alpine Club members had been invited to join in the celebrations at the small chapel there.

And it was there too that I was able to talk to one of my childhood heroes, John Hunt of Everest fame. After the celebratory lunch, I noticed that Lord Hunt had been standing by himself for some time. I walked over to him and told him how I still remembered being taken to see the 1953 Everest film when in Primary School, and had always wanted to meet him. Ever gallant, Lord Hunt replied that I looked much too young to remember that far back! As we chatted, I told him how I believed it was this film that had influenced me to climb mountains myself, and to see Everest, a dream which I finally realised on a trek to Base Camp in 1972. I tentatively asked for his autograph, and he signed my copy of “The Alpine Flowers of Britain and Europe”. His inscription, “*For Pamela, John Hunt*”, has made this one of my most treasured possessions, and accompanies me on all my mountain walks.

Unofficial ABMSAC Day Meets – by Mike Goodyer and Paul Stock

Several times a year we normally get together to do a good days walking around the area we live in - so between Southampton and North Wiltshire. This covers a lot of ground! We hadn’t planned 2020 to be any different. We started the walks off just with the two of us. However after Covid-19 restrictions came into place we thought that we could try to get members of the ABMSAC together for a monthly long walk. Obviously we planned walks carefully and generally kept away from popular spots, went mid week and kept the drive to no more than 90 minutes from our respective homes. On our third walk we had more members join us and then we had a bigger pool for ideas and planning. Read on for what happened next.....

16 March White Horse Trail Walk – Mike Goodyer and Paul Stock



Walked from woods near to Clench Common, Marlborough along ridge to Alton Barnes White Horse and then to Avebury via West Kennet Barrow.

Paul with White Horse

On 23 March the Covid-19 restrictions came into force and you could only exercise alone locally. The restrictions were eased on 13 May so that you could exercise with one person not in your household.

29 May Berwick St John Walk – Mike G and Paul



Took advantage of relaxing lockdown rules and met up with Paul for a long walk in the Wiltshire countryside. Lovely weather gave us some wide views across the valleys.

Visited Wiltshire's highest point, Win Green, on the way round the 18 mile walk with 2400 foot of ascent.

Hopefully our next walk can have a few more folks on!

Wiltshire's highest point - Win Green

From June 1 groups of up to 6 people could meet outdoors, if social distanced.

16 June Upper Chute Walk – Mike G, Paul, Judy Renshaw and Julie Freemantle



Another unofficial meet today on a walk around the Chute Causeway in Wiltshire, but this time with a few more members.

Around 14 miles and 1500' of ascent on this walk in lovely warm weather. Good views and company. Took in some ancient sites along the way of long barrows and Iron Age hill forts and a Roman road! A highlight was a surprise encounter with a pig - Gloucester Old Spot, much beloved by Paul.

Judy will organise the next walk in the Chiltern Hills.

30 June Ibstone Common Walk – Mike G, Paul, Judy and Julie



Team heading towards Stonar Park

Another unofficial day meet! This time in the Chilterns, starting at Ibstone common and visiting Christmas Common and Stonor Park, with accompanying deer. using the Chiltern and Oxfordshire Way paths.

Lovely English countryside and woodland walking. Many thanks to Judy Renshaw for planning the route - around 14 miles and 1800' of ascent. The few light showers didn't detract from the enjoyment.

14 July Barbury Castle and Avebury Walk – Mike G, Paul and Judy

Judy and Paul at Barbury Castle



An 18 mile walk around Neolithic Wiltshire sights.

Starting at Barbury Castle and going along the Ridgeway to Hackpen Hill (another White Horse) and onto Avebury. Passing Silbury Hill we visited West Kennet long barrow for lunch.

After lunch we continued to the Sanctuary, Overton Hill and the Sarsen stone field on Fyfield Down. Back to the start over the gallops via the green lane.

6 Aug Buritom S Downs Walk – Mike G, Paul, Judy and Mike O'Dywer



This walk was organised by Paul. Four of us met at Buriton, on the South Downs Way and did a 16.6 mile walk in improving weather. Also did just over 2200' of ascent.

Set off along the South Downs Way, calling in to see Uppark House through the gate, and along past Ditcham Park over the main line to London. Up to Windmill Hill for a quick lunch and then across to the Queen Elizabeth Country Park. A quick detour up Butser Hill for views across to IoW before returning for a tea break at the Park. Returned to Buriton via the Hangers Way.

Great day out with good company. Finished off with a pint in Buriton. Thanks Paul!

8 September Stokenchurch walk – Mike G, Judy and Julie



This walk in the Chilterns was around 13 miles and a little under 2000 foot of ascent.

Starting at Stokenchurch we walked out to Andridge common through St Mary's churchyard in Radnage on to Bledlow Range. We stopped for a coffee break near Lodge Hill Farm and spotted a Privet Hawk Moth caterpillar burrowing into the ground!

Off across a series of fields to Lodge Hill to meet the Ridgeway and down to Bledlow. Then it was up Wain Hill to a suitably placed bench in the nature reserve for lunch, overlooking Chinnor.

We watched a sparrowhawk swooping around totally disregarding the signs about preserving wildlife! After lunch we headed through woods to a quarry road to that went past old workings, now 'lakes'. We returned to Stokenchurch via Kingston Woods and Mallard Court. A lovely walk with good company.

20 October Pewsey White Horse Walk – Mike G, Judy and Margaret Moore



Continuing our monthly day walks this one started at Pewsey Wharf in Wiltshire.

Despite depleted numbers three intrepid walkers braved the strong winds on the ridges for an enjoyable 15 mile walk.

We walked up to the Giants Grave settlement and along various ridges to the White Horse above Alton Barnes. Return was via the Kennet and Avon canal from Honeystreet.

Margaret and Mike braving the windy day

Further restrictions were enforced on 2 November and we were back to exercise locally with one other person not from your household. The restrictions were eased on 2 December, when you could meet up with people again within the same tier.

15 Dec Kingsclere Round – Mike G, Paul, Judy, Julie, Margaret and Mike O'D (and Margaret O'D for with morning)



Our last 'unofficial' ABM walk of the year started from Kingsclere, organised by Mike O'D.

On a sometimes sunny and sometime showery day we completed a delightful, but muddy 13 mile walk, taking in the village of Hannington, Watership Down and past Sydmonton Court to the village of Ecchinswell. Here we sheltered from a heavy shower under the village Hall porch and had a quick lunch stop.

We returned to Kingsclere via some fishing ponds, Paul's eyes lit up!

Sunny morning break

The Covid-19 restrictions were back in place from January 6 2021 and we hope to resume are Southern walks in April when the restrictions are planned to allow up to six people from different households to meet.

Obituaries

Peter Clarkson 1943 - 2020



Don Hodge writes: Peter was a very popular member of the Tuesday Climbing Club (TCC) and would socialise with everybody that he met. He joined the club when he was living in London and went on the many meets that the club organised. Peter was greatly involved with the George Starkey Hut right back to its early days attending the maintenance meets that took place each year. He became a Director of the hut and came to several of the committee meetings over Kirkstone Pass from where he was then living in Kendal. After one notable meeting as he returned home, his car became stuck in the flood water from Brothers Water with him in it, fortunately he was rescued and brought back to the Glenridding hotel to spend the night in borrowed clothes. Another close encounter with water happened when the cellar/kitchen of his house in Kendal was flooded by storm Desmond in December 2015 - pictures of him swimming inside his house reached several national newspapers and a video appeared on Have I Got News For You on TV.

His wife, Jill died suddenly in January 2018 from sepsis which devastated Peter and he not only lost contact with his friends, but also his health deteriorated badly. Early in 2020 he was taken to a care home where he died in May 2020. Because of the Covid 19 restrictions, his funeral was only attended by close relatives, however Martin Whitaker wrote "An Appreciation of Peter Clarkson" which was read out at the funeral and a version of which is included below.

It Doesn't Get Much Better Than This!

An Appreciation of Peter Clarkson, who died on 17th May 2020, by Martin Whitaker.

Peter John Clarkson was born on 15th July 1943, and spent most of his early life in Lancashire. He graduated in Maths at Manchester University, and it was probably whilst studying here that he had his first taste of climbing. Early on in his working career he met Pete Suthers, and established an occasional climbing partnership, and a friendship that lasted a lifetime. Their climbing activities were limited by Peter's family commitments, but they managed occasional trips to the gritstone edges and Wales. He moved to London in 1970, but spent a lot of the first year in Northern Ireland, in Belfast, working for an Anglo-American consultancy at Short Brothers. It was not the best time to be there, and he acquired his share of "bomb stories". In 1975 he took a year off work to travel around the Far East and Africa, once again climbing with Pete Suthers in Kenya. He had a varied working career that included employment with Rank Xerox, Third Wave and Vodaphone, as well as a period running his own picture-framing business.

He started coming away on meets with the TCC in the late 1970s. His first climb with me was a multi-pitch climb called Doom (VS), on Craig Cywarch, and I think it really fired his enthusiasm. He was sufficiently impressed to write an article about it for the Club's newsletter, Arête – his first of many contributions.

On a weekend in January 1982, only Pete's car-load made it out of London, driving the first 150 miles on a snow-covered motorway, and reaching the hut in Stair at 2.30 a.m. On the Sunday four of us climbed up a frozen Moss Force, in the Newlands valley, with perfect ice and weather. That weekend very much typified Pete's determination to make the most of his climbing opportunities, and was an early example of a "Clarkson Flier".

By now, Pete was on the committee of the TCC, initially as Social Secretary, and later as Chairman, getting away with the Club when he could, climbing, walking and mountaineering. He loved most aspects of being in the hills, and was always keen to broaden his experience. He was also a keen cyclist, and made a point of keeping up his mental and physical fitness by cycling to work, and getting a daily dose of excitement in London traffic.

He took a break from the TCC committee from 1985, but was persuaded back in 1988 as Vice-Chairman, and took over as Editor of *Arête* in 1989. The Editor's job was not an easy one, as cajoling people to write articles was always a problem, but it seemed to increase his enthusiasm for climbing.

In 1992, he and I went to the Zillertal Alps of Austria for 2 weeks. We had some excellent days out climbing peaks and staying in mountain huts. The simplicity of this kind of activity really appealed to Pete, and he particularly enjoyed the day when we crossed from the Spannagelhaus to the Friesenberghaus via the summit of the Hoher Riffler, returning next day via the Friesenbergsscharte.



Pete on the North Ridge of Mount Stuart

There was no doubt that Pete enjoyed mountaineering more than the cragging, so the following year we agreed that a trip to the USA would be arranged for September. My wife Pat, Pete and I flew to Seattle, and hooked up with Pete Suthers, who was now living and working in Seattle. The four of us spent a week or so climbing in the Cascade Mountains, and Pete and I had a very memorable ascent of the North ridge of Mount Stuart. After 10 days or so in Washington State, the 3 of us left Pete Suthers in Seattle, and headed into Wyoming, via Yellowstone, to Jackson Hole and the Tetons. We spent a miserable night in our tent at 11,500 feet on the Grand Teton, while it snowed heavily outside, and were forced to abandon the mountains, for the rock-climbers' paradise of the City of Rocks. His favourite climb was the one that he and I did that got us to the summit of the Twin Sisters.

We returned to Wyoming in 1994, this time to the Cirque of the Towers in the Wind River Range. For Pete, it was always going to be a frenetic trip, as he had only managed to get one week off work. The 3 of us flew out to Denver, and immediately drove through the night 500 miles to Pinedale, where we slept in the car for 2 hours until Pete Suthers turned up from Seattle with supplies of food for a week of wilderness camping. This was then packed into rucksacks, along with tents, sleeping bags, stoves, ropes, climbing gear, etc and we staggered 9 miles, over a 10,000-foot high pass, into the Cirque of the Towers.

The perfect cure for jet lag! To cut a long story short, a bear kept helping us to consume all our food by raiding our supplies every night, no matter what precautions we took. We managed to achieve all our climbing objectives in 4 days of intense effort, by which time we, and the bear, had eaten everything except the uncooked pasta, so we headed

back out to civilisation a bit earlier than intended. Pete was able to re-arrange his flight home, and actually went back to work a day early. Another successful “Flier” completed!

Pete had finished editing *Arête* in 1994, after a 5-year stint, but found himself back in harness again in 2005, and remained at the helm until the Club was wound up in 2017. He had got together with Jill in the early 1990s, and they moved to Kendal a few years later. Here he got involved with the Kendal Mountain Rescue team, and did much to assist them in fund-raising and administration. He and Jill also became closely involved with their local branch of CAMRA, as they both had a keen appreciation of real ale, and Pete’s cousin had established a brewery in Lancashire. The pair also started to do a lot more cycling. One of their wedding presents was a tandem!

Although Pete was now doing less climbing, he did join Pat and I for a month in New Zealand in January 2001, claiming that it was a reconnaissance trip, prior to returning with Jill. We did quite a lot of rock-climbing, and the occasional peak, and discovered that all his tourism phobias began with G – geysers and glaciers! It was on that trip that the three of us arrived at a campsite in Charleston, and were asked if we were part of the wedding party. Pete immediately responded, “No, but we’ll happily help out with the champagne!” When he and Jill did go to New Zealand, it was with bikes, not climbing gear!

Pete and Jill were now actively retired, and incorporating cycle-touring trips, skiing, trekking, and other adventures, often with other club members, into their busy schedule, as well as maintaining an active social life based round their home in Kendal. They also had family members scattered around the country, that they often visited at weekends. Pete assiduously maintained contact with old friends from his working days, and visiting them provided ample excuse for trips to China, the States and Ireland. He had a very good sense of humour, and was not afraid to tell a story at his own expense – in particular, about the time when he and Jill wrote off 2 estate cars in the space of two months.



Pete en route to the Hochschober

On neither occasion was anybody hurt, though the second was incurred after attending an ABMSAC Ltd committee meeting (as mentioned by Don in his introduction). Likewise, he could see the funny side of having his basement kitchen flooded for the second time.

In June 2003, the four of us went to the Glockner region, and had a very enjoyable couple of weeks with good weather. With it being early in the season, the huts and mountains were very quiet. We spent several nights up at the Adolf Nossberger Hut, where the warden was a 5* chef, who went out and caught us fresh fish for supper from the nearby lake. Kaiserschmarrn was another of his specialities. A few days later, we walked up to an almost empty Hochschober Hut, where the warden and his wife fed us to bursting, and plied us with local schnapps “on the house”. Next day the hut dog, Herr Schober, guided us up the Hochschober on a day of perfect weather, and with no one else around. Half way up the mountain, Pete took a rest on a rock in a grassy flower-filled meadow, breathed a sigh of contentment, and

said, “It doesn’t get much better than this!” We had to agree – it summed up the day and the situation perfectly, and will remain my abiding memory of Pete. Over the years we shared many memorable and enjoyable times, and I am sad that there will be no more.

Timothy Smith 1932 – 2020



We have heard from Louise, Timothy's wife, the sad news that he passed away in July 2020.

Timothy was a life member of the Association and a member of the SAC (Monte Rosa, Sion Section) since 1956. His exploits included many alpine ascents from the 1950s through to multiple trips to the Himalayas from the late 1960s.

Treks included Mount Everest in 1967, China and Tibet 1982, Annapurna 1985, Sikkim 1988, in the Everest region, Nepal 1991 and Mustang 1993.

Everest in 1967, China and Tibet 1982, Annapurna

Tim was a very keen photographer. In addition, he painted many watercolours, from his photographs, of mountains that he visited over the years. So really the paintings are about all his amazing memories, he was a keen painter when he was younger.

Tim's had many interests, gardening, his Tibetan Terriers and he started the climbing shop The Dales Outdoor Centre in Skipton in the early 1970s.



Tim with Sherpa Dawa Tenzing on 1967 Everest trek



Matterhorn from the Nadelhorn, climbed in 1956



Weisshorn, climbed in 1956

We are lucky to have access to some more of Timothy's paintings and these are on the website:
www.abmsac.org.uk/tswatercolours.pdf

Edited by Mike Goodyer

We have also been informed that David Hern passed away this year. He had been a member of the Association and the SAC (Diablerets Section) since 1949.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH MEMBERS OF THE SWISS ALPINE CLUB

Minutes of the meeting held by Zoom, Saturday 6th February 2021

The president James Baldwin was in the Chair, 31 members were in attendance including James.

1 Apologies for absence: John Chapman

2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 1st February 2020

The wrong date for 'Date of next meeting' was noted. Otherwise OK.

Proposed by P Stock, Seconded P Everett.

3 Matters Arising: None that are not covered by the remaining agenda.

4 Election of Officers and Committee:

No nominations other than those of the committee have been received.

Andy Burton is elected as the next President.

Heather Eddowes is staying on as Vice President.

Ed Bramley is to take over from Andy as Treasurer.

Julie Freemantle is to take over from Ed as Membership Secretary.

The remainder of the committee stay in their previous positions, as follows:

Secretary – Dick Murton

Meets secretary – Paul Stock

Editor – Mike Goodyer

Elected member – Ian Mateer

Elected Member: – Andy Hayes

Elected Member: – Roger James

Hut warden: – Marian Parsons

5 Hon Treasurer's report

The treasurer's report was circulated as part of the December 2020 newsletter. The Income and Expenditure Account is presented at the end of the minutes.

The following additional comments were made -

It is proposed that the subscription bands remain as agreed at the 2020 AGM,

Single membership band £26 - £32

Second membership band at the same address £18 - £23

Junior membership £12

There has been an increase in the fee, an additional £3, which is the second half of the £6 BMC fee increase which was carried by the club last year.

Single member is	£29.50
Second membership as the same address	£21.50
Student member	£26
Junior membership	£15.35

There were no losses on meets this year! Pre-paid deposits have been used for rebooking for next year ('21). Any members wishing to cancel have been refunded in full.

Investments have dropped in line with the current market, but dividends have held up. Some apparent increases in dividends were simply due to the payment destination, due to changes in nominees affecting the timings of receipts.

The balance sheet is healthy, and despite spending £4k on digitising the remaining journals, considered by the committee to be a good investment for members, both current and future. A donation was made to the Patterdale Parish Council community fund, of 4 payments of £250, which was well received by the church and parish. Two training grants were also made. Donations were also made to the Glacier Stove Project of £207 and the Himalayan Trust of £500.

Two training grants were made to members for successful training courses.

The current total cash balance is just over £63k.

Proposed: Marian Parsons Seconded: Don Hodge. Approved unanimously.

6 President's report

This is my final meeting as President so thank you so much for supporting me and the Association over the past three years. 2020 has been a very strange year. A full programme of meets in UK and visits to Switzerland and Spain was organised by Paul and the meets team. Unfortunately, apart from the AGM, none took place due to the travails of COVID-19 lockdowns and lesser restrictions. Several day walks were organised, notably the one from Corfe Castle led by Paul and other members have organised walks and climbs as restrictions allowed.

Membership has reduced from 217 to 194 with 40 full members. These are today's figure after reminders have been sent out. 75% of the membership are over 65 and 20% of the full members live in Switzerland.

The Journal was a superb document with a full record of the 110th Anniversary activities, the website has been kept up to date and the remaining Journals have been digitised and uploaded to the website. Thanks, Mike, for making all this happen.

Donations have been made to the Glacier Stove Project of £207 and the Himalayan Trust of £500. A donation was also made to the Patterdale PCC Community Fund of £1,000.

The training fund was used by Julie Jones who attended a navigation refresher course run at Plas y Brenin and Rick Snell who went to Glenmore Lodge and attended an avalanche awareness course. The reports presented in the Journal.

The London Lecture series ran as normal until March but were online ZOOM for the remainder of the season. May I thanks Maureen Stiller and Don Hodge for organising the lectures with Janet Bicknell from AAC who hosted the online lectures. Zoom allowed attendance from a much greater audience with, on one occasion, over 100 participants from as far away as Canada.

At the AGM in 2020 Tony Westcott and Mike Parsons made a presentation on the planned upgrades to the George Starkey Hut that had already been circulated to members of AC.

Roof leaks over the fire alarm control box and into the lady's dormitory necessitated a rapid repair but after the repair the contractor recommended that the roof be stripped and replaced. The total cost of this work, including insulation and other energy saving proposals came to £39,000. Whilst the company has reserves, the roof together with the planned upgrade caused AC to re-evaluate their position in the partnership. I am pleased to report that after extensive discussions AC and ABMSAC have confirmed that they wish the partnership to continue and on Wednesday 3rd. February 2021 a revised Agreement was signed off by committees of both Clubs. I will summarise the changes to the agreement later in the AGM.

I thank my committee for their support and guidance, and also those members who have been looking after the Hut.

I am pleased that Andy has taken on the Presidency, he has been a long standing and active member and been both meets secretary and treasurer of the Association.

I thank Belinda who has provided great support and encouragement over the past years but especially during the past twelve to eighteen months when discussions about the hut and ultimately the partnership with AC have been difficult.

Belinda and I have been members of the committee for over 29 years, she as Editor and Vice President and me as Treasurer and President. We have both enjoyed our involvement and will miss it, but we are both very pleased that some younger members are stepping up to take on committee roles.

May we wish you all a safe time on the hills and hope to meet up face to face some time in the next 12 months when lockdown restrictions have been removed.

7 Revision to the Rules

The changes to the rules are proposed by the committee, but John Dempster explained the reasons behind the changes.

About a year ago, the BMC proposed "model rules" for clubs. Consideration was given to changing our rules in line with these, but felt that clubs affiliated to the BMC were required to comply with their rules and policies. It was felt that this was unnecessary, made it more difficult for clubs to disaffiliate. The model also included provisions about discrimination, harassment, and disciplinary procedures for club members who fail to comply with these rules. It was not felt appropriate for clubs such as ours to have such complex rules.

Whilst it was decided not to adopt the BMC rules directly, it was considered worthwhile to review our existing rules. A number of what are considered minor changes are proposed. The most major change is the proposal that one of the GSH directors should always be a member of the committee, which also agrees with the discussions that have taken place between the AC and ABM.

Mike Parsons, as a member of the BMC National Council assured us that there was no attempt by the BMC to bully clubs as suggested.

Whilst accepting this comment, JD also confirmed that he considers the inclusion of this level of detail unnecessary. (Not expressed at the AGM, but the committee did also consider that simply being affiliated to the BMC meant that we would need to abide by their rules, so it was unnecessary to repeat in our own rules).
Proposed: The committee Seconded: John Dempster Approved by a large majority.

8 George Starkey Hut Ltd

Update given by J Baldwin.

I do not propose to give you a full blow by blow account of the twists and turns of the discussions about the George Starkey Hut and the Partnership with AC. Suffice to say that after an extensive series of ZOOM conference calls, telephone and emails a revised Agreement was signed off by both ABMSAC and AC committees on Wednesday 3rd. February.

The main points are:

- 1) The directors of the company will be senior officers of their respective clubs and, by definition, be committee members. This has generally been the case with ABMSAC. This arrangement ensures that club committees are kept abreast of hut issues and will prevent a recurrence of past difficulties. As far as the two clubs are concerned, for the next few years at least, the directors will be the presidents, treasurers and secretaries of the two clubs. In future it will be at a minimum, the treasurer and one other member of the respective committees of each club.
- 2) A new management accounting system has been introduced and changes to banking and investment trustees is in progress.
- 3) The Hut Management Committee has been reinforced and will carry out the day to day running of the hut and prepare quarterly reports for the directors. The HMC will have authority to spend up to an agreed sum on repairs and maintenance without reference to the directors. The HMC will prepare an annual income and expenditure budget and submit it to the Club Committees through their respective GSHL directors for approval in April for the financial year beginning 1st. July. The budgets will include estimated costs and benefits for any building maintenance considered necessary by the HMC. This may sound a little familiar, but it is restating the management structure so that both club committees and all members of both clubs know how the company will run. Heather Eddowes has agreed to become Chair of the HMC and will be supported by a team that draws on skills and will not, necessarily, have equal club membership.

4) In the event of one or other club wishing to break the partnership it is agreed that 12 months' notice will be given to the other club. The remaining club is free to decide whether it wishes to continue to operate the hut after the expiry of the notice period, either alone or with a new partner. At the end of the 12 month notice period the company will pay to the departing club an amount equal to half the nett assets of the company. This is the same basis as when the AC came on board in 2016. The use of the word net is important because the known dilapidation and maintenance work will be recorded in the statutory accounts, writing down some of the value of the company, to be carried out annually.

The current value of the company is ca. £160k, and there are no provisions for reducing the assets, so should the partnership break up today, each club would take / be left with 80k.

5) The Hut is a benefit to all members of ABMSAC and AC and for this reason the clubs will no longer solicit individual membership of GSHL or require any further financial guarantees from individual members. The senior officers of the clubs will represent their clubs and become the only members of GSHL. Details of this arrangement will be presented at GSHL AGM.

6) On the practical front a building survey was completed, and the report issued in November 2020. This indicated several repair items that should be actioned as soon as possible. Work has started to replace the roofs over the Gents washroom and entrance vestibule together with appropriate insulation and woodworm treatment.

7) The AGM of GSHL will take place towards the end of April 2021. This is in accordance with the Articles which allow 15 months between AGMs. The minimum notice of 21 days will be given, and it will be on ZOOM.

May I thank Andy Burton, Dick Murton and Ed Bramley for their input and support over the past 10 months and wish them and the Hut Management Committee the best into the future.

A number of pictures, taken by Brian Horn (roofing contractor) showing some aspects of the roof before and during the ongoing repair work were then shown.

9 Any other business / queries:

Don queried if there was a leak over the ladies washroom. It was confirmed there is not, but there was one over the ladies dormitory, which has been sorted.

John Dempster expressed thanks to James in particular, and the rest of the committee for their perseverance re negotiations with the AC after new members of the AC committee questioned whether the partnership should continue. He is personally not sure that all the changes agreed are necessary, but are worth bearing with to ensure the partnership continues.

Mike Parsons seconded the thanks by the message board.

Judy Renshaw – will existing members of the GSHL still be invited to attend the AGM?

The AGM is likely to take place towards the end of April, and all current company members will be invited.

The date of reopening the hut depends entirely on when the authorities allow this. The limited reopening last year was successful, but probably cost the GSHL slightly financially.

Meets programme obviously depend on regulations, but if possible, will give everyone a month's notice of events. The procedure is more clearly laid out on the front page of the web site.

Andy Burton spent a few minutes giving a vote of appreciation for the all the work James & Belinda have done for the club over the years since they joined, including roles as committee members and officers, and for hosting the Beer meet for 15 years. In recognition, the committee have decided to make donations to 3 charities that James and Belinda support – Patterdale Mountain Rescue Centre, The Dartmoor Way, and Blood Cancer UK (was Leukemia), the latter in recognition of Belinda's work. The Patterdale MRC are buying some new Petzl headtorches, The Dartmoor Way CIC has James as a director, so has not been contacted before now. A floral tribute has also been delivered today, which was duly shown to the meeting.

10 Date of next AGM:

Date of next year's AGM – Saturday 29th January 2022.

Please note that this date has changed due to availability at the Inn On The Lake.

The hut bookings have also been changed, so the hut is available for ABM members use that weekend.

Hopefully not another Zoom meeting!

Dick Murton, Secretary, February 2021

Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the year ended 30 September 2020

	Notes	2020	2019
Income			
Subscriptions	1	4447.65	4593.25
Dividends/Bank Interest	4	4673.58	3350.82
Lloyds Investment Funds income reinvested	4	404.62	
Total income		9525.85	7984.07
Expenditure			
British Mountaineering Council		-3791.44	-2661.25
Journal	7	-2046.04	-1771.83
Newsletters		-85.05	-94.56
Administration		-268.00	-793.97
Cost of digitising the Journals		-4193.33	
Tax on interest and dividends		-276.07	-172.90
110th Anniversary		-34.95	-424.09
London Lectures		-115.67	-167.30
Meets		-303.50	-249.30
Annual Dinner		-899.54	-478.90
Training Grants		-321.00	-363.00
Donation to Patterdale Mountain Rescue Team			-450.00
Donation to Mend the Mountains			-1000.00
Donation to Patterdale PCC Community Fund		-1000.00	
Donation to Glacier Stove Project		-207.00	
Loss/Profit on SAC Transfer-Bank charge	2	-15.00	-15.00
Zoom Membership fees		-92.32	
Total expenditure		-13648.91	-8642.10
Deficit/Surplus		-4123.06	-658.03
BALANCE SHEET			
as at 30th September 2020			
Fixed Assets-restated			
Investments at cost	3	19555.62	19151.00
Assets sold in period			
Current Assets			
Stocks		0.00	0.00
Debtors and Prepayments	5	250.00	325.50
Cash on deposit		60638.08	63317.21
Total Current Assets		60888.08	63642.71
Current Liabilities			
Creditors	6&7	2396.04	-550.00
Subscriptions in advance	1	1093.66	-1166.65
Total Current Liabilities		-3489.70	-1716.65
Net Current Assets		76954.00	81077.06
General Fund			
Brought forward at 1st October 2019		81077.06	81735.09
(Deficit)/Surplus from I&E A/C		-4123.06	-658.03
Donations and Bequests			
Carried forward at 30th September 2020		76954.00	81077.06

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

for the year to 30th September 2020

2020**2019****1. MEMBERSHIP****Category**

SAC Members	46	48
Non -SAC Members	157	169
Total	203	217

Value

Amount Paid	4374.66	4666.60
add Subscriptions from previous year	1166.65	1093.30
less Subscriptions paid for next year	-1093.66	-1166.65
Net	4447.65	4593.25

2. Profit/Loss on SAC Transfer is derived from:

Total subscriptions (ABM & SAC) from members	7029.08	7195.12
less ABM subscriptions	-4374.66	-4666.60
less subscriptions remitted to SAC	-2654.42	-2528.52
less Bank Transfer charges	-15.00	-15.00
(Loss)/Profit	-15.00	-15.00

3. Investments

These are as follows:

4320 Brunner Investment Trust Limited Ordinary Shares of 25p each
 6360 Invesco Income Growth Trust plc Ordinary Shares of 25p each
 1665 Murray International Trust plc Ordinary Shares of 25p each
 7782.1 units Standard Life
 12825 units Witan Investment Trust plc Ordinary Shares of 5p each
 6541.342 units Architas MA Active Growth Fund Class A Acc.
 10892.73 units Lloyds Investment Funds Ltd. Reinvested shares- Sterling Bond Fund.

Cost of these holdings £19,555.62 (This figure now includes the income reinvested in the Sterling Bond Fund during the year)

Aggregate market value at 30th. September 2019	£153,967
at 30th. September 2020	£139,881

4. Dividends and interest on fixed rate bond for 2019/2020.

The increase in dividends in 2019/20 arises from some of the previous year's income being banked late.

5078.20 3390.82

5. Prepaid Meet deposits for Braemar and Swanage 2020/2021

250.00 325.50

6. Picos Meet 2020/21/Brecons Meet 2018/2019 attendance monies

350.00 550.00

7. Journal invoice paid in Oct. 2020 and included within Creditors

-2046.04

A. Burton

Honorary Treasurer

17/11/2020

In my view the financial statements are in accordance with the Associations accounting records as at 30th September 2020 and disclose a deficit for the twelve month period then ended.

No work of an audit nature has been carried out.

Stewart Crisp
Accountant

17/11/2020

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

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

1978 F E Smith & J P Ledebøer
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 F A 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 F A 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

HONORARY EDITORS

(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 Jeurwine
 1965-1968 G A Hutcheson

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

HONORARY TREASURERS

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

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

HONORARY AUDITORS

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

1957-1967 R A Tyssen-Gee
 1968-1974 A Hart
 1975-1977 J Llwlwyn - 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 - S Crisp

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

1974-1977 J P Ledeboer
 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 Jeurwine
 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 Ledeboer
 2001-2002 Wing Commander H D Archer, DFC

HONORARY SOLICITORS

1909-1932 E R Taylor
 1933-1973 The Lord Tangle
 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)

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

Oread Mountaineering Club (www.oread.co.uk)

We have reciprocal rights at the following Huts:

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

Hut booking secretary – Michael Hayes

Tel: 07771700913 email: michaelhayes6688@gmail.com

Hut at Heathy Lea, Baslow (Grid Ref: SK 273722):

Hut booking secretary – as above

See the website for details about each hut.

Swiss Alpine Club (www.sac-cas.ch/en)

SAC members can log onto the site using the puk number on their membership card for up to date information about routes, huts and suggested tours in summer and winter.

BMC (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

Notes

Notes

ABMSAC Office Holders 2021

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.