

STERNIANS MOUNTAIN CAMP 2015



Red grouse in Wharfedale

At our 2015 AGM we noted that 2016 will be the 70th Anniversary of Sandy Henderson's first Mountain Camp at Loch Morvich, Kintail in 1946. The Sternians Mountaineering Club seeks to maintain the tradition: our first Meet was also at Loch Morvich, in 1971: in 2016 we are 45 years young! All Sternians are warmly invited to join us at one of our 2016 Meets: details below.

The current SMC officers are Hugh Podger (President), Gordon Pitt (Chairman), Peter Everall (Secretary) , David Minnikin (Treasurer) and Charles Lawrence (Meet Secretary). Please contact the latter for details of meets:

e: cp.lawrence@btinternet.com t: 01572-722777.

Spring Meet – Wharfedale Lodge, Kilnsey, Skipton BD23 5PT: 13-17 April, 2015

STERNIANS MOUNTAIN CAMP 2015



The Wharfedale Party: Edward Armour, Gill and Charles Lawrence, Gordon Pitt, Mike & M Beckley. Peter Everall, David Minnikin, Tony Barry, and Fary Afshar standing). Liz Everall, Hugh Podger, and Marion Turner (seated)

On Tuesday one party left Kettlewell and walked North up to Cam Head and then followed the Starbotton 'Road' in a strong wind to the top of Great Whernside, 704 m. After lunch they returned East through Hag Dyke, South to Providence Pot and so down Gowber Gill Beck to Kettlewell and the Blue Bell. The other, larger party left cars at the Cavendish Pavilion and walked up Simon's Seat through the Valley of Desolation. Numerous black and red grouse, one particularly photogenic, above, brightened our descent North to the Wharfe and a delightful walk downstream in the sun through Strid Woods to the cars.

Wednesday again involved two parties. One group walked the Dales Way from Kettlewell to Buckden via Starbotton, returning on the Top Mere Road track. The other group walked up Littondale through Hawswick to Arncliffe, returning by the river with a wide variety of birdlife.

Thursday saw us all walking from Wharfedale Lodge to Conistone village. Conistone Dib – an interesting picturesque scar in the limestone – led to Conistone Moor on the West side of Wharfedale. Pleasing views of Wharfedale from the limestone pavement, a good walk to Conistone Pie through disused mines and shake holes, and so back to the Wharfe by a variety of routes.

Autumn Meet – The Old School House, Bishops Castle, Shropshire SY9 5DA: 28th September-1st October, 2015.

The Party: Hugh Podger, Liz and Peter Everall, Gill and Charles Lawrence, Fary Afshar, Edward Armour, Liz and Tony Barry, Marion Turner & David Minnikin .

STERNIANS MOUNTAIN CAMP 2015



The Shropshire Party: Fary Afshar, Peter Everall, Tony Barry, David Minnikin, Charles Lawrence, and Edward Armour (standing). Marion Turner, Liz Barry, Hugh Podger, Liz Everall, and Gill Lawrence (seated).

On Tuesday we took cars to the Stiperstones car park above Bridges. Following the Shropshire Way uphill we reached the Shepherd's Rock. Along the top to the Devil's Chair, a splendid Ordovician quartzite excrecence visible for miles. Lunch was taken on Manstone Rock, the highest point on the Stiperstones. A steady descent via Cranberry Rock in lovely sunshine brought us back to the cars.

On Wednesday, with the fine weather continuing, we tackled the pre-Cambrian Long Mynd from Bridges. A delightful walk up through deciduous trees to a footpath leading to Belmore Farm, and so to the Shropshire Way and Pole Cottage. The party split with the main group continuing down past the Gliding Club, then NNW down a footpath past Adstone Farmhouse and back to Bridges. The other group took a more direct route off the Long Mynd to Medlicott and Bridges.

On Thursday one party walked from the house to Oaksey Farm and Lydbury North. A route along the John Myttom Way led to Conery village, with lunch overlooking Bishop's Castle. Meanwhile the Lawrences drove to the fine gardens at Powis Castle and thence to Carding Mill Valley by Church Stretton. A pleasant walk up towards the Long Mynd from the East concluded the day.

In 2016, the Spring Meet is at Braithwaite, Cumbria (4 nights from Monday 18th April) at Newlands Fell House in the heart of Beatrix Potter country between Derwentwater and Buttermere. The Autumn Meet is at Belmont House, Edale, Derbyshire (4 nights from Monday 3rd October), the southern start of the Pennine Way. For details of the 2016 meets, please contact the Meet Secretary, Charles Lawrence (e: cp.lawrence@btinternet.com; p: 01572-722777).