

Sternians' Mountain Camp 2017

The Sternians Mountaineering Club meets twice annually in Spring and Autumn. All Sternians are warmly invited to join us at one of our 2018 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 – Ty Cerrig Granary, Brecon Beacons 20-24 March, 2017



Seated: Peter Everall; Hugh Podger; Gill Lawrence. Standing from left: Fary Afshar (photographer!); Marion Turner; John Hall; Mike Beckley; Marion Beckley; Charles Lawrence; David Minnikin; Liz Everall.

Last visited in 2010 in splendid weather this venue, close to the River Usk, enjoys good views of the Brecon Beacons. With a dubious weather forecast the first day found us above the Talybont Reservoir visiting successive waterfalls on the Caerfanell River, returning just in time to avoid the persistent sleet and rain. The second day found us on a variety of itineraries in the Cwm Oergium Valley. In the afternoon a party visited the Red Kite Feeding Station at Llandeusant where over 100 kites were viewed at close quarters as they fed on the fresh meat provided, to be followed by buzzards, magpies and crows.



Red Kite by Fary Afshar

The third day brought very strong winds; parties walked along the Brecon canal and the River Usk whilst two found the approach to the Brecon Beacons ‘a bit challenging’ as they retreated from the tops. Oh for the weather of 2010!

Autumn Meet – Newlands Fell House, Braithwaite, Cumbra 2-6 October, 2017



From the left: Peter Everall; Gill Lawrence; Hedi von Rieben Rigny, John Holloway, Marion Beckley; Gordon Pitt; David Minnikin; Liz Everall; Charles Lawrence; Mike Beckley; Tony Barry;

Newlands valley is a delightful area between Keswick and Buttermere. Our first day found us on Hindscarth above Buttermere in a fierce SW wind. The more adventurous continued over Dale Head with fine views over the Buttermere Fells to Great Gable. The less adventurous descended in the lee of the mountain to Newlands Valley. The second day brought low cloud, rain and a variety of low level walks. One such provided good opportunities for landscapes as the water colour of Newlands Valley shows.



Newlands Valley looking South from Birkrigg: John Holloway

On our third day many headed East to Cat Bells, grateful for the strong westerly wind behind us. There were fine views of Helvellyn and Blencathra from the top. A second group visited the Derwent Fells North of Newlands, with views of the Buttermere Fells.

In 2018 we meet on April 9-13th in North Wales and in Wharfedale from October 1-5th. Do join us: full details from the Meet Secretary.

Charles Lawrence.
24 November 2017

(465 words)