Monmouth Rambling and Hillwalking Club

Newsletter – Autumn 2026

Hello to all our members



Following our recent AGM we now have a largely new club committee. I'm honoured to take over as Chairman from David Norfolk, who did an excellent job during his tenure. I'll do my utmost to emulate him, in my own way of course. Time will tell if I'm up to the task.

The following members were duly elected (unopposed!!) as your committee for 2026 – 2027:-

Club Officers:

Chairman: Martin Shipley

Secretary: Andrew Crosbie

Treasurer: Ian Burton

General Committee Members:

Charlottee Gray (Social Programme Co-ordinator)

Mike Butler (Pastoral Care)

David Norfolk (Annual Club Holiday)

Sally Henley

Diane Booker

Dominique Willisseck

Mike Brewer

Behind the scenes undertaking important tasks on our behalf are:-

Charles Emes (Website)

Mo Shipley (Walks Programme Co-ordinator)

Nicky Harding, Claire James & Mike Saunders (Monnow Valley Walk project)

Syliva Reynolds (Recording of walker numbers)

As ever, the committee exists to run the club for the benefit of all of its members. We are open to all of your ideas for improving or adding to what we do, in relation to our walks programme, social activities, web site and communications such as this. So do get in touch if you have any suggestions whatsoever.

Membership

I'm hoping that each of our current 72 members have or are about to renew their annual club membership, which we have again been able to hold at £10 for the year October 2026 – October 2027.

My ambition for the next 12 months is to get to know and understand our membership as much as possible. I'm aware that we have members who prefer the longer walks, those who enjoy the shorter walks and several members who no longer undertake or are unable to undertake our walks, but engage with the club as often as they are able to on our social activities, or just generally keep in touch. My aim is to meet as many of you as I can over the next 12 months and get to know you personally, so if we've not done so already I hope that we soon cross paths one way or another.

Club Holiday 2026 – Malham, Yorkshire

Our grateful thanks to David Norfolk for again co-ordinating the annual Club Holiday. I'm delighted to say that he has offered (and was hastily accepted by the committee!!) to do the same again for 2027. You will have seen his emails regarding this and I hope that many of you will be able to join in on this.

Once again this year, HF came up trumps! Eighteen of us took part in our club holiday in late September at Newfield Hall in the Yorkshire Dales. It was judged to have been pretty successful, with the accommodation and catering receiving compliments, and the weather benign if chilly at times. The walking was really good, while those preferring a less strenuous outing enjoyed visits to interesting local places.

David's personal highlight was the hike up Pen y Ghent (which despite its name is neither in Wales nor Belgium), reaching the summit at 694 metres (2227 feet) after quite a scramble in blustery winds, to be rewarded with a panoramic view over the dales. Equally memorable was a shouty Yorkshire lady who objected from several hundred yards away to our walkers taking a route across what were not actually her fields. Didn't faze our leader Ian at all! And fortunately a friendly local lady restored our faith in Yorkshire folk by reassuring us that the shouty lady had previous form in that direction…

Those taking part in the Yorkshire trip were enthusiastic about a further Club Holiday in 2027. This is currently being arranged for HF's Monk Coniston hotel in the Lake District (see https://www.hfholidays.co.uk/news/country-houses-monk-coniston), with Langdales and the Old Man of Coniston nearby. Fingers crossed for more good weather!



Social Events

Sue Loubser again organised our putting event, held on 24th July at Monmouth golf club. It attracted a very good attendance, helped by good weather. Everyone enjoyed a fun competition and a good meal afterwards. The next event was the club barbecue on 12th September. After being cancelled 2 years running due to rain, the weather gods were kind this time, and it went ahead. Mike Brewer hosted, planning by David, Liz and Nicky, plus a support team including Bob, Gwen, Tom, Sue, Mike Butler and Charles. There were about 30 attendees, with a good time being had by all.

Coming up soon is our annual skittles event on Friday 27th November at the Royal Oak in Monmouth, organised as ever by Steve and Alison McMenemy. The total cost will be £7 per head. Partners and friends are more than welcome to attend.

Please book in with Alison (email alisonmcmenemy@gmail.com or text on 07702 606016), with the following information

1) your sandwich filling choice (meat, veggie or fish). A choice of any two is OK;

2) your bread choice (brown will be served unless otherwise stated);

3) any other dietary requirements as soon as possible, but **no later than 18 November 2026** with payment by bank transfer to our club account (see details below). However, if you prefer, cash on the night is acceptable. Acc. name: Monmouth Rambling & Hill Walking Club, Sort Code: 09-01-56, Acc No: 02946484.

And finally…

As usual, our newsletter carries an advertisement for HF Holidays. Over and above providing us with comfortable accommodation in attractive locations for our holidays, our affiliation to HF Holidays gives us a discount on their cost together with a donation to our funds.

TAKE A HIKE

AWARD WINNING HOLIDAYS
IN THE UK AND ABROAD

Discover our favourite walking routes and enjoy accommodation in exceptional locations. We know the ingredients for a perfect hike – enjoy full days walking with fellow guests and leave all the planning and navigation to us; it's what we do best.



hf holidays

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK
VISIT: HFHOLIDAYS.CO.UK/WALKING-CLUB
CALL: 020 8732 1260

Book and tavel with confidence . Please go online for our most up-to-date offers and prices plus full details: hfholidays.co.uk

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We're proud to be a certified B Corporation, joining just 4% of UK travel and hospitality companies committed to ensuring their business practices are a force for good. In everything we do, we strive to operate ethically and sustainably, guided by a deep respect for our guests and members who share our love for the great outdoors. By choosing HF Holidays you're supporting sustainable travel and community-focused initiatives. So you can feel good knowing your journey with us benefits both people and the planet.