



CLUB NEWS

April 2025



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Dave Button, Club Secretary

Lots to look forward to this year, the outdoor climbing season has already started with our first trip to the Peak District in March, with thirty two climbers bravely venturing out in the changeable, breezy Spring weather over that weekend. And that's just the start, another dozen rock climbing trips are planned throughout the year, with Kalymnos in October for those who want to extend their climbing year with some late sunshine.

Indoors, I am pleased to report that the level of engagement and participation is high. The Committee are currently considering costs and plans to update the St. Nicholas Wall routes with the help of a professional route planner. This is all possible because you come to the Wall on Wednesdays and support this important activity and many of you meet up in the pub afterwards. It's worth mentioning, even if you don't climb do come along to the New Bowling Green pub for a drink and chat. Our climbing wall is a springboard for newcomers too and we see a steady increase in membership as a result. If you are joining this year, great to see you and welcome to the Club. Join in the social and outdoor trips, make new climbing friends - there's plenty going on !

Our social event plans are well under way, with trips to Northampton to the Pinnacle, the Banff film festival and lots more to come throughout the year.

Enjoy your climbing!

Dave

Pinnacle Climbing Northampton

Caroline Hackett, Social Secretary

In March, 27 of us, (yes, 27!) took a day trip out to the brilliant Pinnacle climbing wall in Northampton.

21 adults and 6 kids had a brilliant day climbing chimneys, overhangs, slabs and 2 beam crossings by Jigi and Nate - kudos to them!

The day was followed by pizza's and lots of laughs. We also tucked into delicious coffee and walnut cake for Jigi's birthday!

This event was very popular, great for everyone in the club to get together and climb somewhere new (much as we all love St. Nicks of course!). We will aim to organise at least one more of these during the year.

If anyone has suggestions on a likely venue, please feel free to get in touch!



Banff Film Festival

Ken Mitchell, Press Secretary

Banff Mountain Film Festival was on at the Leamington Spa Centre in March, a series of short captivating films made by the world's top outdoor adventure filmmakers. All featuring extreme journeys, intriguing characters and stunning cinematography.

I wasn't certain what to expect from the "Red Film" programme, but it sure was entertaining! Included in the films were mountain biking on the edge of steep drops in the Dolomites, canoeing down glacier rivers and waterfalls in Svalbard, trad climbing on a notoriously difficult Colorado sport route, a spectacular freestyle mountain bike hurtling down an Austrian ski race route - it was genuinely thrilling to watch.

My favourite film of the evening was "Soul Flyers" that followed a descent which began with three "adventurers" leaping out of a helicopter over Mont Blanc, stretching out their wing suits and making the longest ever descent from 12000 feet, travelling 7.5km - like flying squirrels! these guys were having so much fun that they even found time to do aerobatics, flipping on to their backs and flying upside down for a while - it was awesome to watch!

I had every intention of looking on eBay for a wing suit after that, but I settled for some very tasteful "show merch" instead ... neck warmers from the shop. Sign up for the next series in September, in Leamington Spa. I'll see you there!



Outdoor Climbing 2025

Rob Lillywhite, Trips Secretary

Despite what has been the least wintery winter in recent memory, a winter trip to Scotland at the end of February experienced some snowy weather, which even prompted an avalanche on Ben Nevis a couple of days before arrival!

Despite the conditions, the climbers managed to get their ice axes and crampons out, experienced some adventures on the hill and a good time was had by all. In Scotland there's always the whisky afterwards, so sometimes all that effort is just worth it to sit by an open fire with a glass or two!

Our most recent trip to the Peak district was blessed with changeable Spring weather, with plenty of climbers, first time outdoors and experienced, coming up for one of the first non-snowy climbing trips of the year.

There are plenty more trips lined up for 2025, so do take a look at one or two (or more), most have the option of staying in a climbers hut, so you don't even need camping gear! All will be great fun, so sign up, and see you on the rock.

Here's what's coming up in May, June and July:

2 – 5 May, Wye Valley

Single and multi-pitch limestone, trad and sport.

24 May – 1 Jun, Cornwall

Single- and multi-pitch granite on the glorious Cornish coast.

20 – 22 Jun, Peak District

Single-pitch limestone or grit in a moorland setting.

11 – 13 Jul Yorkshire

Single-pitch limestone or grit in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales.



Equipment list

Not sure what you need for outdoor climbing? Thanks to WCC member Fergus Norrie for this guide.

This is by no means an exhaustive list. If you have further questions then speak with an experienced member of the club and read online. The BMC and UK Climbing provide a lot of useful information on their websites.

Experience	Expectation	Equipment
Climbing outside (trad and sport)	A confident indoor climber (grade 5 upwards) who wants to know what it's really about.	Helmet (essential), nut key (trad only), 120cm sling, 2x locking carabiners, a length of prusik cord (ask a WCC member). (~£100) These items are required for seconding on traditional ("Trad") and sport routes.

Before you go shopping, look out for the 20% WCC discount code for Lockwoods, on the club Whatsapp group !



Club T-Shirts are back!

The Club T- Shirt is back for 2025!

Sustainable cotton T-shirts, this time a classic fit with a close neckline. Some exciting new colours for 2025, and available just in time for Summer.

Choose a zingy fresh vibe for your climbing wardrobe this year – Apricot, Pistachio, Orange or Blue. You'll look awesome on the rock!

Watch your email for more news on how to order.

Marathon Man

This is WCC climber Henry Johnson, who is running the London Marathon soon, and the Great North Run, dressed up as a Guide Dog in aid of (yes, you guessed it) Guide Dogs!

I met Henry at the Wall last week and said "Hey Henry, how many marathons have you done? I was amazed to hear the answer was "loads". Most people would settle for one in a lifetime, he's done London, Edinburgh and New York – and next up is Chicago. He'll move on to Boston, Berlin, Sydney and Tokyo ! I don't know where he gets the energy, this is him sending the 6b at St Nicholas Wall, just for a warm up...

If you want to sponsor Henry, head over to Whatsapp General Chat, and find the link to his Just Giving page. There's still time before the London event on 27th April !



The Big Wall Reset

The indoor climbing wall at St. Nicholas Park could see a big change this year, as the Committee considers costs and plans to update the St. Nicholas Wall routes.

Everyone on the Committee is super excited to see what can be done! However, we do need club volunteers to help prepare the wall, for this once in a generation opportunity!

If the Committee decides to go ahead, there will be a call on Whatsapp for WCC climbers to help with these stages:

- A "route setting Sunday" in the near future to undo, measure and record bolt lengths. Then refit every hold currently mounted to the wall, and check spare bolt holes for dodgy threads
- A total wall strip by volunteers on a Wednesday night
- A jet wash party, to clean all the holds in advance of the final installation
- A small team will be required for a whole day to assist our professional route setter so he can stay focused on reaching the summit.

The result will be awesome, so come along if you can and get involved!



COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Feel free to get in touch with the committee, in person or via the club email below.

Dave
Club Secretary
clubsec@warwickclimbingclub.co.uk

Get in touch for anything related to the club, it's organisation, day to day matters, the annual general meeting.

Steve
Club Treasurer
treasurer@warwickclimbingclub.co.uk

For bank account details, payment codes or other financial queries

Jim
Membership Secretary
membership@warwickclimbingclub.co.uk

For any queries or issues related to your membership or to introduce new members to the club

Rob
Trips Secretary
trips@warwickclimbingclub.co.uk

For any queries or suggestions on outdoor trips

Caroline
Social Secretary
socials@warwickclimbingclub.co.uk

Set up a social event or for any queries on the social calendar

Ken
Press Secretary
press@warwickclimbingclub.co.uk

Contact for news and events that you want to share with the rest of the club, including trip reports and photos.

Lars
Wall Secretary
wall@warwickclimbingclub.co.uk

For anything related to indoor climbing at St. Nicholas Park.