

# Midland Ski Club News

September 2018

## From the Chair

I hope you all enjoyed your summer and are now looking forward to the ski season coming up. You'll immediately notice that this newsletter looks different to the ones we have become used to over many years, and that is because it has a different editor! Husband and Membership Sec John Elgy has volunteered to have a go and I thank him very much.

**Rob Weeks** has decided to step down as newsletter editor and website manager after many many productive years in these roles, far longer than I've been a club member, and I've been around for a while....

I'm sure that everyone will join me in saying a **HUGE thank you** for everything Rob has done, which certainly isn't limited to editor and website, but includes publicity, printing, filming, creating an online calendar, membership sec support, Googlegroup, social media and in fact every aspect of the club has felt the benefit of his input. Rob, it's going to take several people to replace you! I know you will continue in some areas with the time you have available. Thanks again.

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## Diary

*Training times at Ackers Adventure, social events and holidays*

Roger Crombleholme 07736 821147

Tuesdays @ 6.00pm: Young Racer Development Coaching

Tuesdays @ 6.00pm: Recreational Coaching

Tuesdays @ 7.30pm: Race Development Coaching

Thursdays @ 6.00pm: Young Racer Performance Coaching

Thursdays @ 7.30pm: Race Performance Training

Fridays @ 6/6.30/7.30pm: Skier Improvement Coaching

Fridays @ 7.30pm Adult Recreational Coaching

Thursdays @ 6pm Oct 25, Nov 22 and Dec 13  
Taster sessions

13 Oct 2018: **Gloucester Summer Race League Final race**

Dave Beech [dabhand13@gmail.com](mailto:dabhand13@gmail.com)

### MSC club races (Fridays)

09/11/18	Club champs and open
30/11/18	Winter race league 1
14/12/18	Winter race league 2
18/01/19	Winter race league 3
08/02/19	Winter race league 4
01/03/19	Winter race league 5

17/03/19 MSC Schools' race

### Telford Winter Races (Fridays)

21/09/18, 19/10/18, 7/12/18, 11/1/19, 8/3/19 And their schools' race is 16/11/18

### Club Holidays

20-21/10/18 HATW, Peak District

29/12/18 – 05/01/19 Family Training week

05/01/2018 – 10/01/19 Additional training days (if required)

11/01/19 – 19/01/19 Early season training week (Pila)

02/03/19-09/03/19 Club Holiday (Mayrhofen)

### Social Evenings: Wednesdays at Hollyfields

17/10/18 Skiing in Japan

28/11/18 Ski film night

## Membership Campaign

The first of our Ackers 'taster' sessions was held this week and the dozen or so skiers who came all reported they thoroughly enjoyed themselves despite the lashing rain that started part way through! Some said they would tell their friends, some said they would come on Tuesdays.... so we really hope to see them again. The taster sessions will become a monthly fixture and the next ones will be Oct 25, Nov 22 and Dec 13. You should receive a few cards about this with your membership renewal and if you are able to give to friends or leave at a sports club etc, it'll be really appreciated.

You can see more details at

[www.midlandski.uk](http://www.midlandski.uk) or  
<https://www.goskigoboard.org.uk/directory/midland-ski-club>

**Volunteers** As you can imagine, we need new volunteers, and in fact this is always the case. If you are interested in joining the RSG, **taking on any of Rob's roles**, or can see a gap that you could help to fill, please get in touch. Every little helps! We also need a new **Club Secretary**. Diana is moving to the South West and will no longer be able to carry out the position. These are very important roles in the club and need filling

**New Members** A warm welcome to our new members, Rob Chandler, Tim Spurgeon, Jonathan, Dominic and Eleanor Schofield, Roman Wolczuk, Abi Crampton, Kristian Kott, Benjamin Lyth, Edward Harrison, Meg Barratt, Joshua Currie, Emily Currie, Zhoujin Xing and Neill Currie. We hope you enjoy your skiing with Midland Ski Club.

**Social Programme** Talks, walks and other activities related to Skiing at Hollyfields Sports Club – organised by *Catherine Frankenburg* [cfrankenburg@hotmail.com](mailto:cfrankenburg@hotmail.com)

**Wednesday 17th October: Skiing in Japan** - Catherine Frankenburg and Clem Chakki

They will be outlining their experiences of a recent off piste trip plus all the information they garnered about skiing the country, plus their impressions of the culture.

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November** Ski film night –celebrate 30 years since the release of the Blizzard of Aahhhs

**Sally Giles** has decided to leave the Race Steering Group and we thank her for her input there and for what she will continue to do. She has led the introduction of the brighter club clothing which has proved very popular among racers and is thinking of introducing a wider range, for example polo shirts. Watch this space.

## Gloucester Summer Race League September 15 2018 Dave Beech

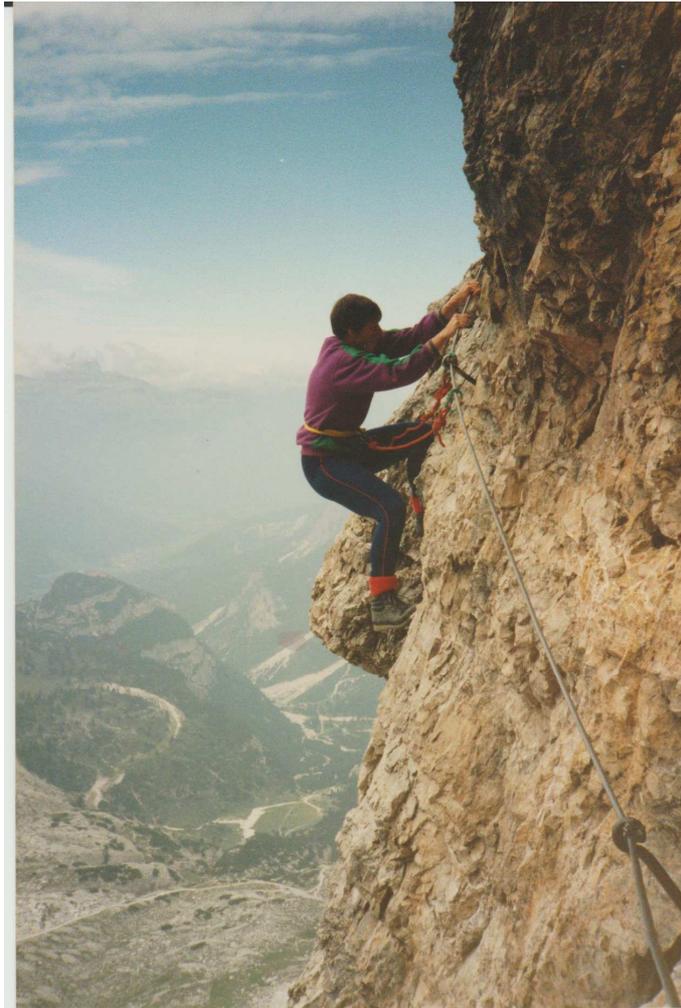
A great day was had by all with some fantastic performances and improvements and some lovely weather too! Every racer delivered solid performances, Matthew Truege was our fastest racer which was very impressive as he hasn't raced or trained very much due to exams, Chloe Gardiner raced for the first time in preparation for the ESSkiA event taking place the following day and she did very well indeed, Lucy Sainsbury continues to impress and was our second fastest racer. The coaching work done by Roger and Jo with Robert and Tommy Jones was very much in evidence as they have improved greatly over a short space of time, producing very smooth runs. Josef managed to wow the crowd with a run that seemed to blend slalom and freestyle, managing a touchdown turn transitioning into a 360 and still getting a time and Alex Chadwick recorded his first time below 26 seconds. Well done to all, thanks go to those parents attending for their support, to Paul Treuge for being our gate judge and Alan Edwards for his help organising racers and bibs etc.

Next month sees the final meeting and hopefully we are going to be joined by Gianluca Capelli, Phil Wigfield and racing debutant Paul Johnson. It would be fantastic to have a strong turn out to finish the summer race league....we hope to see you there.

## Via Ferrata in the Dolomites

In June the Ski Club held another successful evening meeting with a summer theme - walking and climbing in the Dolomites over the decades! John Elgy (our esteemed Membership secretary) entertained us with the progression of his many summer mountain trips with his wife Gerry (our esteemed Chair) as the main model in his impressive photos. John started his talk with an informative introduction to this area of the Italian mountains, outlining the origins of the Via Ferrata as a means of enjoying access to the mountains prior to the First World War, the history of the war in the area, and the annexation of the Austrian land by Italy after the war. The stated aim of his talk was to persuade members that any of us could take up the walking, then progress onto trying the many and varied Ferrata and then also be able to progress to climbing! John and Gerry provided us with a useful demo of the pieces of equipment they used over the decades, as well as a photographic reminder of the clothing fashions and hair styles that came and went over the years!

Gerry's comments that 'they go from Grade 1, a footpath with a wire handrail, to Grade 5 = blood curdlingly frightening and you need arms like a gorilla' might confirm that all was not quite as easy as John portrayed it! Overall the advice is that you need to start at grade 1 (Italy) or PD (France) and see what happens! And always choose one that has an escape route part way up, We had a most informative, stimulating and entertaining evening, but I'm not sure that John achieved his stated aim, as some of the attendees could be heard muttering things similar to 'Impressive/ stunning but you wouldn't get me on things like that if you paid me!' .



**Gerry on a marked Dolomite footpath a few years ago**

## Bernard 'Bunny' Smith

Bunny sadly passed away recently after a long illness. He will be remembered by many as a vibrant and adventurous daredevil on the slopes with his trademark 'Playboy Bunny' which he engraved on his skis. His funeral will be held at Lodge Hill Cemetery, Weoley Park Road, Selly Oak B29 5AA on Thursday 27 September at 12.30. There will be a party afterwards at Moseley Rugby Club B13 0HN to send him off as he would want.

You do not need to contact his wife Margaret to say you wish to attend but are welcome to do so, especially as she will need to know numbers for catering and for more information about the arrangements.

If you wish to contact her, the land line is 0121 6802575 and her address is 195, Longbridge Road, Northfield, Birmingham B31 4JX.

A few stories from his family and friends sum up what an unforgettable multifaceted character he was. He was always interested and curious about the world and people around him. As well as a 'go for it' skier he also loved hang gliding until he had an ultimatum to give up, after an accident 'ploughing a furrow with his face' on the Long Mynd left his head full of titanium! He often travelled around Europe with other thrill seekers, seeking hang gliders. He only hung up his skis when Margaret lost sight in one eye and found it hard to ski despite other skiers protecting her. He was a very sociable guy who loved good curries, always had homemade wine as well as good bought wine on offer at home, and provided a good gin & tonic. (which didn't put him above jokingly trying to pinch other people's glasses!!), and enjoyed many a glass of ouzo with friends and family each summer on the Greek island of Lipsi. In more serious moments he was a talented silversmith, lover of dogs, and often made kind gestures to others. For example, being involved in having a park bench set up at a favourite view point for Stan Moore's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and raiding a skip to make a cold frame for Gilly Peto. He will be sadly missed by all those who were fortunate enough to know him.

## SSE Membership benefits

This is the latest from Snowsport England and you can see some are still works in progress! If you are interested in any of the TBCs or would like discounts at other outlets please contact [Gerry@elgy.org.uk](mailto:Gerry@elgy.org.uk) and I'll contact SSE.

### Ski Bitz

**Website:** <http://www.skibitzracing.co.uk/>

**Type of Business:** Equipment and Accessories

**Benefit(s):** Up to 20% off

**How to redeem Discount Code:** Email

<http://www.ski-bitz.co.uk/> with proof Snowsport England membership (Member ID and Club)



**Website:** <http://www.skibartlett.com/>

**Type of Business:** Equipment and Accessories

**Benefit(s):** 10% off

**How to redeem Discount Code:** Email

<http://sally@skibartlett.com/> with proof of Snowsport England membership (Member ID and Club)



### Discount Coming Soon!!!

**Website:** <https://www.burntcustard.com/>

**Type of Business:** Multi-Sport Base Layer

**Benefit(s):** 20% off

**How to redeem Discount Code:** TBC

### SLÜG

**Website:** <http://www.slugoptic.com/>

**Type of Business:** Magnetic Lens Goggles

**Benefit(s):** 20% off

**How to redeem Discount Code:** SSE20



**Website:** <http://www.sherpr.co.uk/>

**Type of Business:** International Sports Equipment Shipping Service

**Benefit(s):** 10% off

**How to redeem Discount Codes:** use code SNOW10 on checkout



**Website:** <http://www.lastminute.com/>

**Type of Business:** Travel

**Benefit(s):** Free Membership- save 65% on travel

**How to redeem Discount Code:** TBC



**Website:** <http://www.traveltrex.com/>

**Type of Business:** Travel (Ski Holidays)

**Benefits:** 8% off

**How to redeem Discount Code:** Tbc



### ROSSIGNOL

**Website:** <http://www.rossignol.com/>

**Type of Business:** Equipment and Accessories

**Benefit(s):** Discount for Instructors/ coaches/ leaders only

**How to redeem Discount Code:** contact

[info@snowsportengland.org.uk](mailto:info@snowsportengland.org.uk) for code



**Website:** <http://www.cotswoldoutdoor.com/>

**Type of Business:** Clothing and Equipment

**Benefit(s):** 15% off

**How to redeem Discount Code:** use code AF-SNOWSPE-M7 on checkout



**Website:** <http://www.snowandrock.com/>

**Type of Business:** Clothing and Equipment

**Benefit(s):** 15% off

**How to redeem Discount Code:** use code AF-SNOWSPE-M7 on checkout

# Family Training Week Dec 2018 - Jan 2019

and option of an Additional Training Week Jan 2019

**Roger Crombleholme**

This year we build on the successes of the **Family Training Week** by going back to Pila, Aosta again for our 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year with **coaching from Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2018**.

**And additionally, offer extra coaching during the week in between the Family Training Week and the Early Winter Training Week with coaching from Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2019.**

**Coaching costs** will be the same as the Early Winter Training Week at **£186 per person** which includes the local fee.

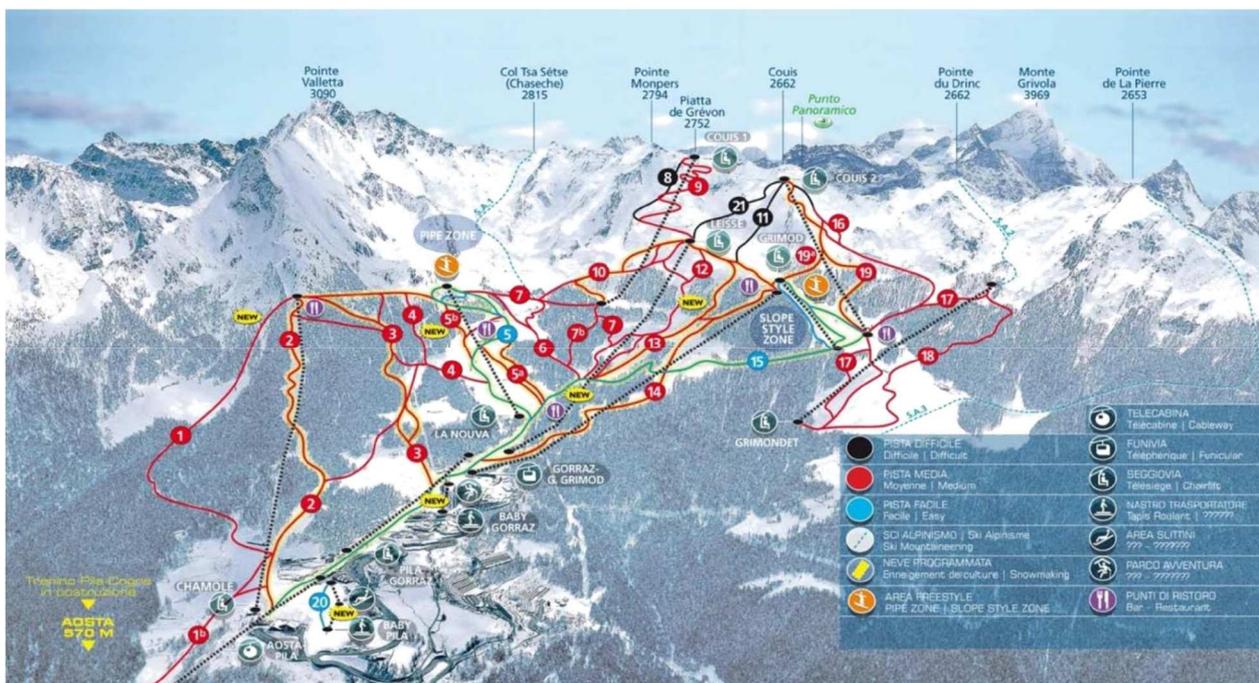
**Where:**

**Pila, Aosta, Italy**

– (32 min 38.2 km south of the Chamonix (France) - Entrèves (Italy) Mont Blanc Tunnel

Resort altitude of 1800m with access to 70km of pistes from 1765-2700m

Used for the last 6 years Early Winter Training Week & 4 years for the Family Training Week **Organisation:**



**Organise Yourself Basis** (by request) so you will need to organise your own insurance, transport, accommodation, lift pass, equipment hire, food etc.

**Applies to both Family training week and Addition Training Week NB: The Fully organised Early Winter Training Week is fully booked**

More useful information below

**Coaching:**

**Coaching period** – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2015 to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016, with optional Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2016.

**Coaching on the family training week** (unless the group decides otherwise) will be mainly aimed at the children whilst still coaching adults and parents

**Roger** – I am booked up, flights and accommodation etc, ready and raring to go.

**Other Coaches** – depending on numbers

**Accommodation:**

**Aosta** – Most people I hear are staying in the town of Aosta, as am I, 1km from Gondola in

Aosta **Pila** – Plenty of accommodation in the resort, apartments to hotels, but more expensive

**Gerdaz** – Mid-station half way up gondola system from Aosta to Pila

**Booking:** Use form at the end of the document.

**Meeting point:**

As I will be travelling up the gondola every day. It should open at 8.00am and closes at 17.00am, journey time 20 minutes.

**Pila** – Bottom gondola station – proposed meet time 8:15am board at 8:30am

**Pila** – Top gondola station – proposed meet time 9:00am or at the Yeti Bar (just down the piste a little from Gondola Station) if weather is bad.

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For your information.

I have booked a THOMAS COOK flight from Manchester via Expedia

I have also booked accommodation via AirBnB <http://www.airbnb.co.uk/> to keep costs down, many of us have used this method but we/club can't recommend or guarantee any of these booking methods. Basically it depends on how much risk you personally want to take or trust you place in these vendors.

Others I tried were, but I liked the ones with search maps (maps that you can move around, zoom in and out, and automatically show expandable markers of properties for rent) :

<http://www.airbnb.co.uk/>

<http://www.holidaylettings.co.uk>

<http://www.homeaway.co.uk>

<http://www.ownersdirect.co.uk>

<http://www.expedia.co.uk>

<http://www.booking.com>

<http://uk.hotels.com>

<http://www.crystalski.co.uk>

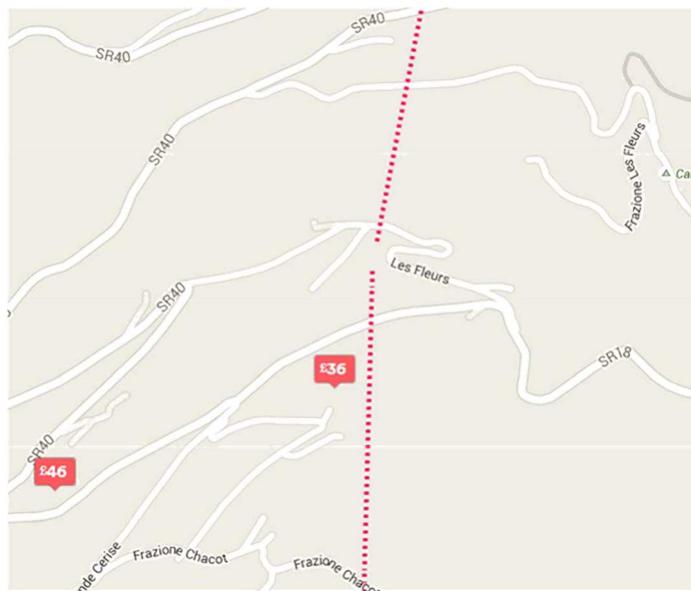
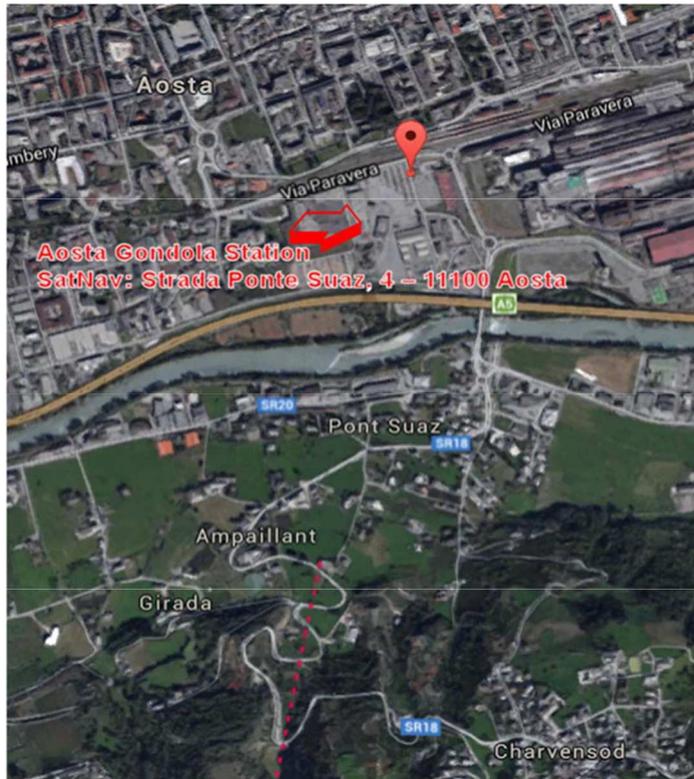
<http://pilaski.co.uk>

<http://www.pila.it/en/hospitality/where-to-sleep/>

The gondola is not where it is indicated on Google maps it is here (see picture in previous email below) on the northern side of the river and dual carriageway.

There is a massive supermarket alongside the gondola station as well a ski shop.

The hotel that Midland Ski Club use in the past is Chalet Des Alps (booked via an agent as a Crystal Holiday) for the Early Winter Training Week. I also believe that this hotel is used by ESSkiA. This is about 100m's below the top of the gondola.



The gondola halfway station is on road Les Fleurs at Gerdaz.

Hope all this extra information helps  
 Winter holiday companies that may also help you:

- Interski: <https://www.interski.co.uk>
- IgluSki: [www.igluski.com](http://www.igluski.com)
- PilaSki: [www.pilaski.co.uk](http://www.pilaski.co.uk)

- Crystal: [www.crystalski.co.uk](http://www.crystalski.co.uk)
- Inghams: <https://www.ingham.co.uk>
- SkiLine: <https://www.skiline.co.uk>

All the best  
 Roger

# Midland Ski Club – Training Week Booking Form 2018/19

## Which Training Week?

- A  (Y/N)
- B
- C  From  To

## Who's Going?

Members Name	Age (if U18)	Gender (M/F)	Coaching (Y/N)
1 <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2 <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3 <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4 <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
5 <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

## Describe the skiing standard and experience of each named member

I agree to enclose a cheque made payable to Midland Ski Club a fee for coaching **People**  
 at the rate of      x **£31** **Per person**  
 for      x **?** **Day(s)**  
 totalling      **???** **Total**

I understand that I need to organise my own travel, accommodation, transport, equipment, appropriate travel, medical and skiing insurance for on-piste, off-piste and potentially gate training.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Roger Crombleholme, 7, St. Modwena Way, Penkridge, Staffordshire ST19 5ST

Email: [coach@midlandsk.org.uk](mailto:coach@midlandsk.org.uk)

Tel: 01785714073

Mob: 077368