



IOL English Midlands & AHOEC Central Region Meet

4th February 2025 10.00am to 3.30pm, at the Climbing Hut, Shrewsbury

[Shrewsbury | Climbing Hut](#)

Purpose built, new, indoor Climbing Centre with 12m High Tall Walls, Bouldering, Action Walls, Cafe, Studios and Changing Rooms.

Cost £15pp Book here [English Midlands & Central Region Meet](#) Includes fee for staying on to climb.

Programme

10.00am	Arrivals, wall sign in – belay tests if wanting to climb
10.30am	<p>Welcome and updates session and guest speakers in meeting room</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oliver Elphick, Centre Manger, Climbing Hut, Shrewsbury <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘How we cater for the climbing community’ Ollie will share how the Climbing Hut has developed to be suitable for all ages and experience, perfect for experienced climbers refining skills and beginners, families, corporate events, group bookings and birthday parties. 2. Guy Jarvis, Executive Officer, Mountain Training England <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountain Training update which including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The new bouldering qualification, ○ MT leadership model and its introduction to the climbing schemes, ○ Skills course providership (climbing and walking). ○ The coaching scheme review planned for 2025 – with a request for feedback 3. Jo Barnett, Chief Executive, Institute for Outdoor Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IOL Update and Introduction to the new English Midlands Region Group leads and ideas for future events. 4. Midlands Rep of the Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update 5. Midlands Rep from Outdoor Education Advisors Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update, including the Midlands OEAP Duke of Edinburgh expeditions policy
11.30am	<p>Workshop Session 1 – Sign up on arrival</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climbing for the visually impaired – awareness and facilitation 2. Inclusive outdoor learning 3. Urban fieldwork techniques 4. Grow Coaching Model
1.00pm	<p>Lunch (bring own or Subway/Tesco next door)</p> <p>Networking</p>

1.30pm	Workshop Session 2 - Sign up on arrival <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climbing for the visually impaired – awareness and facilitation 2. Inclusive outdoor learning 3. Urban fieldwork techniques 4. Grow Coaching Model
3.00pm	Plenary
3.30pm	Finish... opportunity to stay and climb

Workshops

The workshops are repeated so two different sessions are available during the day.

1. Climbing for the visually impaired – awareness and facilitation

Des Barnett

The aims of this workshop are to give outdoor professionals working in a climbing wall environment awareness of different sight impairments and levels of severity and how they can be accommodated to give a positive climbing or bouldering experience.

Candidates will experience different sight impairments using a range of glasses which highlight varying conditions from moderate to total sight loss. Different communication skills when working with sight impaired individuals (and sighted assistant if they have one) will be explored and tested.

We will cover warming up, basic movement hold types and location with a progression of movement from floor exercises to the wall (and problems of foothold location). We will consider top roped climbing on the wall, using different methods of effective communication. **Please bring, blue tooth earbuds synched to your phone, climbing harness, belay device & rock shoes if possible.**

Des Barnett is severely sight impaired and MCI. He has rock climbed for most of his adult life for and is bringing some of his own experiences and skills to the workshop.

2. Inclusive outdoor learning

Alan Braybrooke, Centre Manager Arthog Outreach & Outdoor Education Adviser, Telford & Wrekin Council.

'If settings get it right for disadvantaged and vulnerable children, they get it right for everyone'

Sir Martyn Oliver, OFSTED's Chief Inspector speaking 7th January 2025

This workshop will consider approaches in outdoor learning that are inclusive. Al will lead a discussion of sharing ideas and proven practice, and the use of equipment and techniques from a range of outdoor learning settings and activities. The priority will be understanding client outdoor learning from the view of the client, and a holistic approach to participants particular needs including the behavioural, emotional and physical. Al believes in simple flexible solutions to ensure inclusion and enabling a genuine feeling of belonging.

AL has been working in outdoor adventure and environmental education for nearly 30 years. He has a particular interest in caving and holds the Caving Instructor Certificates, he is deeply involved in Cave Rescue, including the role of 'Team Leader' and first aid trainer.

3. Urban Fieldwork techniques

Arran Holdsworth, Centre Manager Field Studies Council Preston Montford

This is an interactive and practical workshop looking at creative fieldwork methods in an urban setting. Arran will provide an opportunity to consider a range of enquiry questions and how to support students gathering data and learning about the built environment. We will also consider qualitative and quantitative methods and first hand data collection and secondary data sources.

Arran has a career background in outdoor education and teaching geography in North Wales and the West Midlands. He has also taught Humanitarian Education and Land Based Studies. In his current role he manages a large Centre that delivers curriculum related outdoor learning for infants through to undergraduates, and professional and personal interest courses for adults.

4. Grow Coaching Model

Jo Barnett, Chief Executive of the Institute for Outdoor Learning

The GROW model, which stands for Goals, Reality, Options and Will. It is one of the easiest coaching models to use and to remember. Its simplicity also makes it a great model for those who are new to coaching to use.

At its core, all the GROW model is really doing is getting someone to think about their current state, their desired future, and how they can bridge the gap between the two. This will be a practical workshop giving you the chance to coach and be coached using resources provided, and that you can take away.

Jo holds a Masters in Management Learning and Leadership, with 35 years' experience of delivery and management of outdoor learning with an interest in facilitating the professional development of others.

Useful Event Info

- Refreshments are available through the day to purchase at the Climbing Hut, but you are also welcome to bring your own.
- Lunch is not provided so please bring your own or there are places nearby including a Subway and a Tesco.
- There is free carparking at the Climbing Hut.
- Booking is essential via the IOL Events webpage [English Midlands & Central Region Meet](#)

Directions

Climbing Hut Shrewsbury, Battlefield Road, Unit 3, Market Place, Shrewsbury, SY1 4AN

Tel: 01743 295997 [Shrewsbury | Climbing Hut](#)

Head for north east Shrewsbury – see maps below/ overleaf

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