



**GWYDYR MOUNTAIN CLUB**  
Promoting interest in mountain activities

## **The Gwydyr Monthly Newsletter November 2014**

Hello everyone welcome to the November edition of the monthly newsletter. Thank you to all of you who provided feedback on the initial October edition of the newsletter. The response was very positive and those of you who provided feedback appeared to appreciate the concise nature of the monthly newsletter and the fairly simple format.

As you can see I have been playing around a little with the look. Once again feel free to comment. All views, either positive or otherwise, are welcome.

### **What's On This Month?**

07-08 Hut Weekend-Bonfire Party and Barn Dance. Details have been circulated by Anna Roberts.

21 Deadline for Articles for the Magazine (Pete Mann)

22 Saturday Walk Goyt Valley (Mark Barley).

25 Committee Meeting/Quarter End Meeting.

28-29 Hut Weekend- Work Weekend (Chris Harris/Geoff Brierley).

### **Future Attractions!**

#### **December**

13 Christmas Meal (Les Fowles) Details have been circulated.

21-04 Christmas/New Year meet at the hut, all welcome!



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**January**

New Meets List Available (Dave Gray/Les Fowles). Work on this is already well advanced and it is filling up fast. If you have any ideas/suggestions let Dave or Les know

23-24 Burns Night (Chris & Janet Harris.) Details to be circulated.

**Recent Activity**

**September**

26-27. Chairman's Luxury Meet. I have received this report from Dave Gray. This meet in Keswick was a great success with 27 people attending and the weather was pretty good. Walks included ascents of Skiddaw, Blencathra by Sharp Edge, a Deepdale circuit of the Dodds, a Causeway Pike circuit, High Spy and Cat Bells ridge, High Seat and Bleaberry Fell, Ward Stone in the Forest of Bowland and various low level walks including part of the Allerdale Ramble. We had a good party on the Saturday night! Thanks to Lin Jensen and Sue Taylor for all their work in organizing this trip!

**October**

4 Saturday Walk-Corndon Hill. Eight of us led by myself attended this walk. The good weather we had all enjoyed for most of September broke on the Friday night and it was raining heavily as I left Birmingham. However by the time we had all assembled and set of the sun was out and we had a really lovely, dry day. However there was definitely an autumnal nip in the air. All went well with some excellent views and apart from the Chairman's poor navigation off the final hill, which led to a very steep and unpleasant descent, a good day was had by all!

This same weekend the 'Gourmet Trekkers' were in Grin Low in Buxton. On Saturday they walked from Grin Low to the Cat and Fiddle and Back and on Sunday Three Shires Head and Axe Edge and enjoyed sunny weather and huge views.

Jim Metcalfe has done the Upper Edale Horseshoe which included both Kinder Scout and Mam Tor.

Margaret and Graeme had a trip to the Robertson Lamb Hut in Langdale. They did walks over Bow Fell and Esk Pike, Arnside and Silverdale and some bike rides.



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17-18 Hut Weekend. I took a day off on the Friday and did a circuit of World's End above Llangollen on the way up to the Chapel. I started at the Ponderosa Café and used sections of both Offa's Dyke path and the Clywdian Way.

On Saturday the wind was really strong so mid-level walks were in order. Teresa and Bryn along with Geoff and Anna and Neil Metcalfe and two visitors from New Zealand, one of whom works with Neil, did a walk from Bethesda.

Dave Gray, Lyndsey Fooks and myself did a circuit of the valley starting from the chapel, taking in Plas Y Brenin and the Ugly House café.

On Sunday Dave Gray walked around Llyn Parc.

The Harris family were in the Lakes and managed to do Pike O'Blisco and Cold Pike despite the weather.

21 Gail Smith presented the first Tuesday night talk on 'Why we have mountains in Snowdonia and the Lake District' using various foods to illustrate her talk and provide a buffet at the end.

Dave Gray has had a sojourn to the chapel while he had anew kitchen installed in his flat and over the course of ten days or so he managed the following walks in addition to the ones mentioned above:

Foel Goch (by Bala), the Moel Eilio to Moel Cynghorion ridge, Moel Penanmen and Arenig Fawr plus four days mid-level walks.

## **Committee News**

The minutes of the last meeting on 14 October have been circulated.

One issue I raised was the timing of the Annual General Meeting. This has always been held on a Tuesday evening towards the end of March. I floated the idea of holding this on a Saturday afternoon as a way of encouraging as many members as possible to attend, in particular those who may find a Tuesday night difficult for various reasons.



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The committee had mixed views on this so we decided to consult the members on this issue. Could you please send me your views on whether or not you think this is a good idea?

### **Other News**

At the Tuesday night meeting at the Stork on 14 October Mike McEneaney announced that he and Joyce are planning on getting married on 22 February 2015. On behalf of the club I offer our congratulations and very best wishes for the future.

Andy Chapman is off to Antarctica again and he will be away until February. I hope all goes well and look forward to hearing about his expeditions sometime in the New Year.

### **Chairman's Thoughts**

The clocks went back recently and the days are getting shorter and the nights longer. It is still possible to have decent days out on the hills but some thought needs to be given regarding the length of any walks or excursions and what extra equipment you need to carry. A decent head torch and spare batteries are a necessity at this time of the year as well as extra clothing in order to cope with conditions, particularly as we move from autumn in to winter.

However the longer nights provide us with opportunities for night walks. If you have never experienced a night time walk then it is something I would recommend. You need to choose the route with care and also think carefully about the timing of any proposed walk. As close to a full moon as possible is better as it should provide more in terms of illumination, depending on the weather conditions. A moonlight walk on a crisp evening with a full moon and a clear sky is a very different experience. If you are lucky to have snow around then even better as the snow will reflect any moonlight and really enhance the experience. Obviously somewhere with as little light pollution as possible is ideal, something that is not so easy to achieve these days. However, if you are out at the chapel and the conditions are good, then give it a go. A walk from the chapel up Siabod via the Plas Y Brenin path would be an obvious choice. If you are tempted then plan appropriately, take all reasonable precautions and don't do anything to put yourself, or others, in any danger.



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I recently completed a survey for the Mountaineering Council of Scotland regarding their draft policy called 'Respecting Scotland's Mountains'. You can find this draft policy at this link;

[www.mcofs.org.uk/rsm.asp](http://www.mcofs.org.uk/rsm.asp)

It prompted me to once again examine my own views on hills and mountains and how these change over time. One book that really made me think carefully about this issue is *Mountains of the Mind* by Robert Macfarlane, 2003, published by Granta. The book is sub-titled 'A History of a Fascination' and it examines over three hundred years of how people have thought about, regarded and written about mountains. Macfarlane states that as well experiencing mountains as physical entities we also interpret and 'read' them and how we do so and how this is affected by historical changes is really what the book is about. This is my book recommendation for the month and there is a link with last month's recommendation as Macfarlane provided the introduction to this.

Happy reading!

Pete



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