



Promoting Interest in Mountain Activities

The Gwydyr Monthly Newsletter June 2015

Hello and welcome to the June edition of the monthly newsletter.

What's On This Month

5-6 Patterdale Hut Meet (Kevin McEvoy).

26-27 Hut Weekend: Welsh 3000s.

Future Attractions!

July

3-4 Bryncreg Camping Meet (Nuala)

11 Saturday Walk: Sandstone Trail (Chris Harris)

17-18 Hut Weekend: Prospective Members Meet (Kevin McEvoy)

August

1-2 Rhoscolyn Camping Meet (Kevin McEvoy).

7-8 Hut Weekend.



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Recent Activity

May

1-4 Breacon Beacons Bunkhouse (Lindsey Fooks).

11 members turned out for this meet on the first bank holiday in May. The weather was not so good particularly for the first part of the weekend, however this did not stop members from getting out and about. The rain on Saturday provided an excellent excuse to visit the Ystyrdfellie falls. The following hills were also completed on what reported as a great weekend; TorYFoel, Sugarloaf Mountain and Pen Y Fan/Cornddu.

The same weekend was Margaret Blakeborough's birthday activity weekend near Chester. 15 Gwydyr members plus family and friends enjoyed a barbeque on the Saturday night along with various activities including bike rides. A good time was had by all and Margaret was surprised by, and very appreciative of, the number of presents she received.

Doug Florence was out on a sea kayaking trip the same weekend. Unfortunately I have lost the exact details of his trip, my apologies Doug.

Anna and Geoff were out in North Wales and were on the Glyderau and visited Aber falls.

15-16 Hut Weekend.

A number of members were out for this weekend and did a variety of things in the area. Geoff and Neil continued training for the Welsh 3000s with a run on the Glyderau. This was also the cycle to the hut weekend organized for the last few years by Chris Harris. Sixteen cyclists, including some club members, cycled out from the Wirral on the Saturday in conditions which were far from ideal. After refueling with a meal in the Tyn Y Coed and a good night's rest they returned via Denbigh moors.

I arrived on Saturday night after spending the day with an old friend of mine in Dovedale in the Peak District. On the Sunday I accompanied Jane and Fiona up the Devil's Kitchen and over the Glyderau as a recce of part of the route for the Welsh 3000s. It was particularly cold and windy on the tops, however we did most of what was planned despite a late start. All three stayed over on Sunday night, unfortunately the weather was even worse on Monday morning so we opted for a low level circuit of the valley around Capel Curig. We managed most of this without getting wet and were rewarded by a coffee in the Ugly House tearoom in front of a roaring fire. The highlight of the day was spotting four fox cubs playing outside their den not far from Joe Browns shop in Capel. This was the first time I had seen young fox cubs outside the den in broad daylight and in a rather unexpected location.



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21 Welsh Corbetts Glasgwm 779m and Aran Fawddwy 907m

Mike McEneaney reports. Fourteen members and guests assembled in Cwm Cywarch for what would be a very satisfying day. After considerable debate we successfully found the start of the walk, which is always reassuring, and gained height rapidly up an excellent zig zag path. Unfortunately the cloud descended as we crossed Bwlch Gesail, only to lift to reveal the summit of Glasgwm a few yards away. There followed a sharp descent and then a gradual rise, circa 1,000ft, to the summit of Aran Fawddwy.

The wind was bitterly cold, but there were extensive views of a very remote area of Wales. We descended via Drysgol and a gently descending path back to Cywarch followed by a pint in the very hospitable pub, the Red Lion (Llew Coch), in Dinas Mawddwy.

We have now completed a third of the Welsh Corbetts and thirty four people have participated in one or more of the walks.

22-30 Ullapool Self Catering Week (Teresa Peddie).

A total of twenty five GMC members made the long journey north to Ullapool for the Whitsun week. The group were accommodated in two separate houses one in Ullapool itself and the other approximately a mile north of the town. Both were excellent bases so many thanks to Teresa for organizing the accommodation. Unfortunately the weather was far from at its best. This was unfortunate as the last two trips the club has made to Scotland during this week have been excellent. It is supposed to be spring, however, the conditions, particularly on the summits of the hills, were positively wintery with strong winds, rain, hail, snow and a wind chill factor of minus 14 at times! However this did not deter members who did a variety of Munros, Corbetts and Grahams as well as coastal walks, boat trips and other touristic activities. It is pleasing to see that once again we have a very committed group of members who are actively bagging the Munros and who are prepared to suffer all the weather Scotland can throw at them to complete the list. It was equally pleasing to see that there are others who, although they are not committed to tackling all the Munros, are nonetheless prepared to have a go at doing some of the more iconic hills. On one particularly wet day with poor visibility we had a total of fourteen members in two separate groups on An Teallach, one of Scotland's finest and most iconic Munros and probably my favorite Scottish mountain. This part of the world, and Assynt in particular, is famous for its landscape with strange looking mountains suddenly rearing up out of the surrounding area. Many of these are not Munros but nonetheless are worth doing in their own right and it was good to see members taking the time to visit them. A group of nine did Suilven from Lochinver, this is a very distinct mountain but an ascent of it involves a very long walk in over very boggy ground. I did it from Inverkirkraig which is the alternative way in, slightly longer but equally boggy. However I did manage



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to get rather brief views from the summit. As this was hill I had wanted to do for a long time the long walk in and wet feet were well worth the effort, in my opinion. Stac Pollaidh, which often features on the front cover of guide books and other tourist publications was also visited on a least a couple of occasions. A much shorter walk in of only just over an hour make this hill a much easier prospect in terms of walk in. However, the serrated nature of the top which involves quite a bit of scrambling in order to reach the actual summit itself, means that it is not as easy as you might expect. But again well worth the effort even in wet and windy conditions. All in all an excellent trip to a spectacular location which all enjoyed despite the poor weather.

Committee News

The committee had their last meeting on Tuesday 19th May and as well as the usual reports from the various post holders we discussed the future marketing of the properties. The minutes of this meeting are now available in the members' section of the website

The next committee meeting is scheduled for the 7th July.

Other News

14 Peaks Challenge

As you will be aware from the meets programme the annual 14 peaks challenge is scheduled for the weekend of 26-27th June. This is one of the traditional meets on the club calendar and is a really good club event where all can get involved either in attempting the challenge itself or by offering to support those who are doing it.

David has sent out an email about this, so please get in touch with him and Dave Edwards if you are intending to take part, or are willing to help with the support.

Magazine

As you will no doubt recall when I launched the newsletter I also proposed that we should have a magazine to be published twice per annum. Unfortunately as I received no articles the last one, scheduled for the end of the year, was not published. I would dearly like to publish a magazine this summer. Therefore I would like to issue a call



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for articles for a magazine to be published around the end of July. I envisage that the magazine should contain longer articles and more pictures. These articles can be on any subject you think may be of interest to other members, a chance to philosophize or ruminate on issues around mountaineering or the outdoors in general. The newsletter tends to have fairly concise accounts of meets so you may wish to write a longer version for the magazine of meets you may have lead or been on. Perhaps there are wider issue affecting the mountaineering community you wish to comment on or encourage debate about? I would like the magazine to have plenty of pictures so a series of photographs of a particular area or simply a series of photographs of a walk or meet with some appropriate captions. In this digital era where everybody appears to want to photograph everything should provide plenty of relevant content. An article on future plans might be something members may wish to share with the rest of the club. Alternatively articles which are more retrospective in nature might be an option.

I am happy to discuss potential articles with anyone so please do not hesitate to get in touch or indeed make suggestions.

The magazine requires content please consider contributing!! I propose a **deadline of 15th July** for articles to be submitted this should provide enough time to publish around the end of July.

Chairman's Thoughts

I began the last posting by saying that spring had begun with some warm, fine weather. Unfortunately this did not last long and May has been disappointing with the temperatures below the seasonal norm and higher than normal rainfall. I had put away some of my winter gear and got out the lighter summer waterproofs only to find that I had to quickly revert back to winter clothing. This was especially true on the recent trip to Ullapool where the conditions required full winter gear apart from ice axe and crampons. It just goes to show that we can't take anything for granted in the hills and that we must be prepared for the worst in terms of conditions and keep up to date with the various weather reports.

My book recommendation this month is another book I have had for a while but have only recently read. It is yet another book about Mallory and the early attempts on Everest, however this particular book does not just set out to tell the, by now, familiar story of Mallory and the early British attempts to climb Everest. It also attempts to set these expeditions in their social context and in particular the impact of the Great War on Britain and its empire and how this infused the latter expeditions. The book is written by



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Wade Davies and the title is “Into the Silence: The Great War, Mallory and the Conquest of Everest”. It is published by Vintage Books, London, 2012. It is over 600 pages, so requires some effort to finish. I feel it is worth the effort and I will be keen to know if others share this view. Happy reading!

Pete