



The Gwydyr Mountain Club Newsletter.

January
2022.

Edited: Chris
Harris

Another quiet month for articles.

I look upon these newsletters as a source of information for future editions of the GMC books, so you may become part of the future history (oxymoron ?) of the club by writing an article.

Hopefully we are seeing the back of Covid and we will have more club activity to report with trips to Scotland in February and Borrowdale in March as well as some weekend walks.

I've started doing park runs and it's nice to see up to half a dozen GMC members at the Birkenhead Park run (other park runs are available). It's not my favourite exercise and does not include any mountains but it certainly stretches the lungs in readiness for those bigger mountains.

Coming soon: (details on meets list on GMC website)

4-6 February	Hut Weekend
12 February	Saturday Walk: Peak District - Dave Edwards
18-20 February	Hut Weekend
20-23 February	Winter Scottish Meet - Chris Harris (more details now on meets list)
4-6 March	Hut Weekend and High House Borrowdale - Teresa Pedie
9 March	Saturday Walk: Howgill Fells - Bill Morrison
22 March	Annual General Meeting
25-27 March	Hut Weekend: Annual Dinner

Articles this month

- 1) South Clwyds and Llanarmon-yn-Ial, Sunday, 9th January 2022 - Janet Coates
- 2) A Couple More Castles – Bodelwyddan and Gwrych - Roger Hughes

1) South Clwyds and Llanarmon-yn-Ial, Sunday, 9th January 2022 by Jan Coates



In beautiful sunshine and a cool breeze, 15 walkers left the A494 layby just south of Llanferres. We walked up the track past Plymog Farm heading west to meet Offa's Dyke path, then south west to Clwyd Gate. Continuing on Offa's Dyke path we headed south, passing below Moel Gyw, Moel Llanfair and Moel y Plas. Turning north east we walked past Llyn Gweryd fishery, then followed track and field paths to Llanarmon-yn-Ial. The group then headed north on field paths, crossing the A494, where it was discovered that half the group had disappeared. On regrouping we walked around the top of Pystyll Gwyn quarry then took lanes and paths past Bryn-haidd and Bryn-yr-orsedd. Then a final turn west and an opportunity for wading and boot cleaning at the clear waters of the spring, before arriving back at our start point, with the sun still shining.



To complete our walk, prospective member Fiona Green, guaranteed being voted in as a member, by providing WAITROSE mince pies for a grateful group.

Distance walked 10.2 miles, ascent 1800 ft.

Photos Helen Grant

2) A Couple More Castles – Bodelwyddan and Gwrych - by Roger Hughes

Remember the North Wales Castles Trail?



On 12th February 2019 the Thursday Walkers under the expert guidance of Mike McEneaney started to follow Mike Stevens' Castles Trail book, and although we didn't visit them in strict order, we did find Caegrwle, Harwarden, Ewloe, Flint, Mold Bailey Hill and Ruthin, as well as diversions further south to take in Penrhyn, Beaumaris, Dolbadarn and Dolwyddelan. Not a bad effort by early 2020, but Mike Mc had considerable reservations about the long walk along the beach to link Rhuddlan to Conway.

In March 2020 Pete Smedley (the Colonel) and I set out to investigate a possible diversion taking in Bodelwyddan and Gwrych. We were (politely) evicted from

Bodelwydden Castle car park and after failing to clear the razor wire at Kinnel Army Camp, we moved on to Gwrych. We took in the hill fort on Coed y Gopa before retiring to the excellent Kinnel Arms for a well earned pint.

Then Covid struck!

As we got into the car and started back along the A55, Boris announced the first lockdown, and I said to the Colonel "once this is over, I will treat you to dinner at the Kinnel Arms!"



The Coed y Gopa woodland walk

Cut to a Thursday in late summer 2021 and we were joined by Dave Edwards and Mark Barley to investigate a Castles walk around Coed y Gopa and Gwrych which might save the long beach walk. Rather like an outing from the last of the summer wine, we made our way across the fields from Coed y Gopa and down the river Dulas to the sea. We still had a 2.5 miles to do along the coastal path which was disappointing, the purpose had been to limit this long boring section of the Welsh Coastal Path.

But greater disappointment awaited, the Kinmel Arms only does food on Fridays and Saturdays!

Not to be beaten, Peter, David and I set out a third time on Saturday 20th November to see if we could shorten the walk along the beach by crossing the railway and A55 by a footbridge which goes straight to the entrance to Grwych Castle. The fact that the footbridge was “closed” did not deter us, but the truth soon dawned, our attempts to access the castle were thwarted by Ant and Dec’s “I’m a celebrity get me out of here”. We negotiated with some locals and discussed cutting across the golf course, but it was clear, Ant and Dec had all the celebrities they needed however much we wanted them to enrol the Colonel. And so, back along the old A55 to the Coed y Gopa carpark, we saved about a mile and a quarter and felt the research was worthwhile. We had settled on a route for an extra castles walk which we will add to the meets programme for March.

Flushed with success we retired to the Kinmel Arms for dinner as planned almost 3 years before.

Photos by Dave Edwards:



Roger and Peter (the Colonel) at the Kinmel Arms