

THE GWYDYR No. 9 (AUGUST)

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GWYDYR MOUNTAIN CLUB

Well the rain has fallen for the most of this month though for the last few days we've had a reminder of what summer is all about and thankfully Bank Holiday Monday was a true scorcher.

It's been another busy month though with lots happening in the hills and on the water.....



Andy Chapman & clients on Stog Kangri 28/07/10

Andy Chapman climbed another snowy mountain at the end of July but he reliably informs me that there were NO penguins 😊

Carol & John began the month with four days sea kayaking on Anglesey while Andy Odger and I endured the slowest party in the history of mankind ahead of us on Christmas Curry at Tremadog, it proved an interesting finish in the rain ! The following day we were joined by Phil Earl and had a damp climb or three in the Moelwyns while Andy decided to go for a walk in the quarries near Moel Yr Hydd.

On Mike Mc's Thursday walk (5th August) we had seventeen members do a cunning and subtle route on the Wirral, a sort of Gwydyr coast to coast. They left Eastham Ferry and aimed for Parkgate via, Dibbinsdale, Raby, Willaston (obligatory pub stop!) and the Wirral Way. After such endeavours I understand that the barbecue and refreshments back at Mike's house were much appreciated.

Also on the first weekend of the month Dave Gray, Ronnie Davis and Matt (prospective member) had a good couple of walks over Moel Penamnen and Dolwydellan on the Saturday and on the Sunday they did the lovely walk over to Llyn Crafnant and Geirionedd.

On the 17th August Andy Odger, Neil Metcalfe and I wandered up the North Ridge of Tryfan in poor weather though the mood during our descent was lightened somewhat with Andy singing 'Take That's' greatest hits much to the chagrin of two delightful ladies in front who no doubt thought there was something wrong with us as we only mildly flirted with them ! To prove that we are, after all, real men we scrambled up a very slippy and greasy Bristly Ridge in almost Autumnal weather and temperatures.

The following day, with our resident singer having gone home, Neil and I wandered up Amphitheatre Buttress on Craig Yr Ysfa. The walk up from Cwm Eigiau is simply superb and much more enjoyable than the tarmac of the dam access road from the Ogwen valley though the descent from the col back to the foot of the crag (where I'd left most of my chocolate – major faux pas!) is getting worse.

This weekend was Ray Baines trip to the Tal Y Llyn camp site and Dave Gray, Helen Avison, Ross McGraw and Kevin McEvoy were also in attendance. They managed an ascent of Cadair Idris in clear weather that became showery as the day wore on. On the Sunday the team went up Waun Oer (2198ft) in nice clear weather.



The Harris's had a good week up in Scotland doing, amongst other things, the brilliant Bidean Nam Bian and the CMD arête on Ben Nevis. This was their first time doing some good walking in Scotland and they definitely want to go back – do we have another Munro Bagger in the making ????? Chris warns of a bad pub in Kinlochleven – the Tailrace Pub is apparently not walker friendly as you can't even take your rucksack inside !



Bidean Nam Bian



CMD Arete in the mist !

The weekend of the 20th August saw Andy Odger and Phil Earl climbing the sublime Sub Cneifion Rib above Cwm Idwal, one of the nicest and easiest routes in the area and they followed this up with the climb & scramble up Cneifion Arete. The same weekend Peter Vaughan, Andy Chapman and an ex-member Greg went to Trefor Rocks climbing a number of good steep bolted routes.

The bank holiday weekend saw Neil Metcalfe, Carol Roberts and John McDonnell with myself at the chapel. In situ, were the Burnley MC whom we get on so well with sharing as we do a seeming addiction to the booze. We actually forsook the hills and went Kayaking every day and a nice change it meant too. Maybe Ruskin was right when he said the mountains (and cliffs) 'look' better from the valleys and given the stunning views we enjoyed from Llyn Gwynant and Llynau Mymbyr there is clearly something in what he says. We also had a great day on the Inland Sea by Four Mile Bridge on Holy Island. The bank holiday Monday was spent on Llandudno Bay playing in the waves and filling our kayaks with water. The Orme's looked superb and much grander than from above which is where we normally view them. After our paddle we went for a walk on the promenade eating chips and admiring the views 😊

The same weekend, on the Saturday Phil Earl and Andy (I'm getting out every weekend now) Odger went for a drive round North Wales to find dry rock and eventually found themselves at Trevor Rocks near Llangollen via the Ogwen valley and the Moelwyns. Six routes were completed so far from a wasted day. On the bank holiday Monday the intrepid pair where to be found walking up Cwm Eigiau to climb Amphitheatre Buttress – they're just copying me and Neil you know.

Mark Cashman also came out to the Chapel and did the classic Snowdon Horseshoe as well as Tryfan twice, the second time with prospective member Cynthia. After his day on the hill Mark likes to indulge himself in the fleshpots of Betws Y Coed, shopping, drinking Coke and eating seem to be his main pre-occupation 😊



Andy on the Pinnacles



Phil (the duke of) Earl !

As a slight aside, the Burnley MC are very impressed and pleased with the chapel improvements. They've been coming to the chapel for over thirty years and had in the past become a little bit 'annoyed' at the seeming lack of investment however now they are very happy bunny's indeed and are looking to book again next year.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The next committee meeting is on the 16th September so if there is anything you would like the committee to discuss then please feel free to email me and I will make sure it's on the agenda.

COTSWOLD DISCOUNT

We have recently amended our contact details with Cotswold's Outdoor Shop where we kindly get 15% discount however some members have difficulty in purchasing items on-line and getting the discount. I've emailed them and if we make a significant number of purchases on-line then we will need to re-apply for a new account number as their computer system cannot deal with anything other than 10% discount on line. Therefore could any members who make significant purchases on-line please contact me by email and I will see what I can do. I got the impression that they 'reluctantly' give us 15% discount in the shops and would much prefer if we had the normal discount of 10% which is what most other clubs get – I would be reluctant to 'rock the boat' on this one. What may be of interest is that the new Blacks store in Liverpool has a new club card scheme in operation which gives is 10% discount but also 'points' (like Tesco's) which we can apparently save to buy new gear. You need to apply direct to Blacks for this though !

FORTHCOMING MEETS

MEETS PROGRAMME	
SEPTEMBER 2010	
02	Thur Walk - Wat's Dyke Way - Mike McEneany
03-04	Flyde Folk Festival Camping (Graham Jones)
10-11	HUT Weekend
18	Sat - Gradbach - Mark Barley
24-26	Canal Trip (3 Days) Sue Taylor
OCTOBER 2010	
08-09	HUT -Weekend
08-09	Wasdale Show (Bryan Gilbert)
15-16	Sat Walk -Rainow - Mark Barley
22-23	Langdale Hut Meet (Allan McDonald)
28	Thur Walk - Vale of Clwyd Mike McEneany

One quite important weekend we have in September is Mike and Brian's 120th birthday bash at the Chapel on the 10th & 11th September. If you can make this rather important party then please email them so we can make sure there is enough beer for everyone. I think you need to bring meat, fish, nut roast etc for the barbecue and more alcohol will help things flow smoothly no doubt.

Also Mark Barley asked me to forward the following with regard to his Saturday walk on the 18th September 2010 :-

The walk will start at 10:00 from the car park in Gradbach (GR998663) (SJ sheet). The walk will be roughly 8-10 miles. Please bring a packed lunch and let us know if you are planning to join us.

Mark and Laura Barley

2011 MEETS LIST – IMPORTANT

We are in the process of putting together a meets list for next year which we want to get out by the end of October at the very latest.

We **need your help** so please email either myself or Dave Gray if you wish to organise something. It can be a simple day walk or climb, a weekend or a longer trip but we need you to do something so have a think, dig out those old OS maps of places you haven't been to for years and see what you can do.

With regard to climbing I am going to ask Les/ Dave G to put a brief note at the bottom of the meets list stating that climbing trips will invariably be at short notice (more reliant on the weather etc) and that those members / prospective members who are interested need to come along on a Tuesday and or text / email me for more details.

I will try to arrange at least one 'beginners' meet next year probably on a club chapel weekend and I would also like to arrange something regular midweek either at the climbing wall or, come spring / summer an outside venue.