

THE GWYDYR MOUNTAIN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Pilot Edition April 2024: Editor Dave Gray



Welcome!

Welcome to the new look monthly GMC Newsletter! This is a pilot version and I would welcome your thoughts on it please. Have a look at the launch email for more detail as to what is planned, and for how you can help me please with copy and/or articles. To get this off the ground quickly there is more of my 'voice' in here than should be the case going forward!

A big thank you to Chris Harris for being editor for so long! Many thanks also to Adele for her help with this edition, and to Bill, Mark Barley, and David LJ for their support.

This issue has three proposed regular short slots on upcoming and recent club meets. Future editions may be 'Extra's, with longer articles and features as well.

Looking ahead

Here are the upcoming meets venues for April and May, details are on the Club Website. The meets list is constantly being updated, **check it out regularly** on the Website.

2 April	Social Event at Gallagher's: Traditional Pub Games
6 April	Lantern Pike and Cown Edge
12-14 April	Hut weekend
26-28 April	St George's Day Dinner/Hut Weekend
7 May	Social Event at Gallagher's: Quiz
10-12 May	Spring BBQ /Hut weekend

Venues in Focus

I'm looking forward, all being well, to joining Mark Barley on his **Lantern Pike and Cown Edge** walk on 6th April.

I've done this walk twice, on slightly different routes. First off with Glenn and Helen, and secondly with Mark himself.

These are a great couple of hills. They have quite a wild feel despite being so near at hand, and command very good views. Due south you see Chinley Churn, which sounds to me like a margarine product trying to convince you it's butter! That hill is another good walk in the area. South west is the ridge of Cats Tor and Shining Tor, the latter is the highest summit in modern Cheshire. Black Hill, far to the north, was the old Cheshire county high point and it

can just be seen from this walk, along with the top Peak District summits of Kinder Scout and Bleaklow.



Chinley Churn from Lantern Pike

The two hills are 'Ethels' – have a look at the Ethel Ready App. It's a well-produced App listing 95 of the higher summits in the Peak. A nice accessible list for the hill bagger, and a good aid to exploration in the area.



Crags on the eastern side of Cown Edge

Cown Edge is heavy quarried on its western side. Derbyshire's history service say that the quarries are at the latest 19th century in date, and were for gritstone. Further back in history, there's a suggestion that *Lantern Pike* was once the site of a warning beacon, a la Lord of the Rings only smaller. Let's hope it's not relit when they see a band of Wirralites and Scousers heading up A555! As for other placenames on the walk, Combs Edge Rocks are named from the familiar Welsh word 'cwm'. 'Cown' in Cown Edge is supposed to come from

another Old Welsh word 'Colauna' allegedly meaning 'river' - but no one seems that sure! Clun in Shropshire is said to have the same derivation.

Grand Days Out (and In) – Recent Meets Highlights

Despite some heavy rain and snow, 17 of us enjoyed a day walk at **Froncysyllte** at the beginning of March. For me it was great to reconnect with so many old friends and meet new people too. We had misty, mysterious views of Castell Dinas Bran and the Dee valley, and impressive ones below the aqueduct, especially on the return leg, on which the weather dried up.

Another highlight of recent meets was Adele's illustrated talk on **Trekking in Peru**. This is one of the series of monthly meets at Gallagher's organised by Margaret and follows on from an earlier quiz, and a talk on the Corsican GR20.

Twenty plus people heard that Adele and Adrian trekked for 9 days, starting from Capuliyoc, after a drive from Cusco, then following the 'Alternative' Inca Trail. This traces one of the many other trails built by the Inca empire through the Andes.



The trip did take in Machu Picchu, but for Adele the highlight was the site at Choquequirao...



Choquequirao has only recently been rediscovered and *partially* excavated. Their group of 10 people were the only ones on the site that day, after a two day walk to get there. Machu Picchu in contrast sees 5,000 visitors each day. The small footfall means though that keeping back the forest growth is a challenge at the site. Choquequirao was an important imperial administrative centre in the 15th and 16th centuries.



Choquequirao – general view from the air (© southamericaplanet.com);

Adele tells me that the baggage was carried by mules looked after by a team of muleteers, that they stayed in tents at night.



And had a flush loo to use in camp every night bar one!

That's all folks! Look out for next month's EXTRA! edition!