

THE GWYDYR NO22(SEPT 2011)

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GWYDYR MOUNTAIN CLUB

Hello everyone, well we've had another good month of members getting out and about despite the less than perfect and decidedly unseasonal weather. As I write the forecast for the next week is near perfect so one expects you will all be doing great things and having fun ☺

Heather Bliss sent me the following which was received too late for August's newsletter.....

VISIT TO NORTHUMBERLAND

Heather Bliss

Twenty-one folk attended the August Bank Holiday meet in Bellingham, Northumberland - 18 at Brownrigg Lodges and Maurice and June in their caravan and Ross in his campervan down the road! Everyone who was coming arrived safely – some after completing the scenic route via Alston because the M6 was closed at Carlisle. The rain cleared away and the pubs in the village were checked out for real ale and food (both were found in good supply).

Next day dawned bright and Mike Davies and Mike Dunn set off for some ancient history at Vindolanda. Mike McEneaney, Joyce Bernard, Roger and Judy Hughes, Lin and Paul Jensen, Janet Coates, Sue Taylor, Janet Ford and myself set off to walk up to Hareshaw Linn – a local walk following a track used by Victorian picnic party-goers. The recent rain had produced a roaring torrent at the actual waterfall which was impressive to say the least.



On the return journey we met with Dave Grey, Helen Avison, Reg Cromer and Ross who were intending to do the same walk but extending it further. Our journey back took in a stretch along the

Pennine Way and back down to the Bellingham Show – by now in full swing – joining Les Fowles who arrived at the same time. Maurice and June Ewing had cycled in the morning and were also now taking their leisure at the Show! The Young Farmers competing against each other and the terrier racing were the high spots.

Back at the Lodges we welcomed Millie and her friend Andrew. The weather remained fair and the planned BBQ got under way. I must thank Paul here because my efforts at lighting charcoal were not good and without his expertise we would have been cooking in the kitchen (I think some did!)



Next morning Lin and Paul donned their go-faster lycra and set off on their bicycles for Kielder Water and the full circle – about 43 miles. Mike Mc took a party from Housesteads along Hadrian’s Wall (a particularly hilly section) and Dave Grey took his party for an 11 mile tramp across the Simonside Hills. Mike Dunn and Les took the ferry on Kielder and sampled some Wylam Brewery real ale. Janet Ford and myself took in a walk alongside Kielder Water and a visit to Kielder Castle (Lord Percy’s hunting lodge). Maurice and June also took in a walk alongside Kielder Water. Reg went fishing and caught one. So a good day for everyone.

Sunday evening was spent supping and eating in different venues!

Monday dawned, still fair, and the party split - some folk heading further north to extend their visit, some headed home, and some headed to a campsite!

Everyone agreed it had been a good weekend. The weather was kind. The hills are not particularly high but the area is huge - and Northumberland is truly one of “Britain’s best kept secrets”!

Thank you very much for that Heather ☺

Phil Earl had a good day on Stanage Edge climbing with Ian Alderson and they managed three routes, Via Media, Manchester Buttress and Martello Buttress, the latter having an ‘interesting’ starting move as illustrated in the following picture.....



New members Teresa Peddie and Bethan Hines organised a 'Girlie' weekend at the Chapel on the weekend of the 2nd September 2011. The weather was less than kind on the Saturday and an effort was made to ascend Snowdon via the Miner's track. They made it as far as Cribiau by Llyn Glaslyn before deciding enough was enough and returned to the Chapel. This was not without incident as Teresa's car keys were soaked and thus great use was made of the hand dryer at Pen Y Pass toilets to dry them out.

That night a communal meal at the Chapel, and no doubt a bottle or three of Cava restored their spirits to such an extent that the next day they ascended Moel Siabod in much better weather. Carol Boothroyd and John Driver went up Pen Yr Ole Wen and Carnedds Dafydd and Llewellyn.



Fiona, Teresa, Carol & Helen



On Siabod's summit



A tad wet methinks ☹️



A familiar pose ☺️

The male members of the Gwydyr will be glad to hear that the overpowering aroma of Lavender and Chanel has disappeared from the Chapel and it is once more a bastion of masculinity ☺️

Adrian Dolan had four days in Scotland around this time while John Murphy and Christie Miles were sunning themselves in Greece while getting lots of walking in the mountains. Mike Mc & Joyce enjoyed a good walk in a less sunnier clime on Frodsham & Helsby hill.

The following weekend was a club chapel weekend and the usual suspects were present. Saturday proved to be a particularly foul day weather-wise though Allan, Neil, Fiona & Bethan braved the strong winds and torrential rain to ascend Moel Elio. Dave Gray, Carol Boothroyd, Margaret Blakeborough and Graham James made their way to Dolwydellan from the Chapel. Dave managed to outflank the pub on the walk much to Carol's consternation though Margaret and Graham were made of sterner stuff and enjoyed a nice beer in the aptly named 'Y-Gwydyr' .

A pleasant evening followed in the pub and Chapel before Sunday dawned almost as wet and windy as the Saturday. Fiona and I were joined in Llanfairfechan cafe by Neil, Teresa and Bethan and we were considering a local walk when it dawned upon me that I'd left my house keys in the Chapel. This was proving to be a weekend of surprises to me (of which more later.....) and after driving back to the Chapel all enthusiasm for a walk disappeared and so we just drove back to Liverpool ☹️

Dave Gray stayed on at the Chapel where he said the weather was incredibly bad at times but nonetheless he managed a couple of good walks and lots of reading ☺️



Like I said – pretty windy ☺



And a bit wet too !

On the 14th September Chris Harris was away again on Mount Ventoux and sent the following, thanks Chris ☺



I took a day off from the week of walking in Provence to do some real Mountain biking. I hired a bike (a carbon fibre Scott CR1) to climb 6273 ft of Mont Ventoux, 13 miles of uphill pedalling! Cruising speed on the descent was 40mph. We took the long route down via gorges and lavender fields and ended up doing dead on 100km. Note walking gear rather than Lycra, it flaps about a bit and slows you down on the down-hills.

I managed a short walk midweek in the delightful Cheshire village of Hale, it was an incredibly windy day and the lighthouse looked particularly impressive – shame we don't need it any more ☹️. Hale is a lovely place and a great way to while away an hour or two in the afternoon.



Hale Lighthouse



Manor Farm



St Mary's Church



John Middleton cottage—he was apparently over 9ft tall and is buried in St Mary's Church

The following weekend was Ray Baines Rhinog camping weekend and he was joined by Dave Gray, Teresa Peddie, Bethan Hines and Neil Metcalfe.

They managed two peaks Y Llethr and Rhinog Fawr and I think the following pictures tell the rest - thanks to Bethan for these 😊





The weekend of the 24th September (Saturday) saw nine members attend Mark Barley's walk in the Peak District. We started near to Lyme Park, a stunning looking place and after walking through the grounds were headed over to Kettleshulme for Reg to have his beer in The Swan (great little pub and the food looked great). The weather was not as bad as we had feared though we did get a bit damp before returning to the car over Bow Stones and back through Lyme Park. All in all the walk was about 11 miles long and it was really nice to go somewhere I had not been to before.



The gang, minus Dave Gray, outside Lyme Park Hall ☺



The thirsty gang heading towards the pub !



You don't say

Sunday dawned rather hazily for the Chairman and Andy Odger but our resolve to get something done over-ode any thoughts of lethargy and we drove back out to the Peak District hoping for some dry rock. As we made our way through Manchester in heavy rain we thought that breakfast would be a good idea and stopped in Sainsbury's cafe for a mid-day brunch. The weather began to improve and as we passed through Kettleshulme we resisted re-visiting the lovely pub from yesterday and

continued onto Windgather Rocks as the weather had improved dramatically with more than a hint of blue in the sky. For those who have not climbed on Gritstone or outside before this is a smashing place to go, short climbs and an easy walk off. We managed six routes, none harder than severe, before calling it a day and heading home. The journey was not without incident as running out of diesel in Stockport on a quiet Sunday evening was interesting to say the least. With the help of a friendly taxi driver all was sorted 😊



The Chairman and Andy Odger – hungover !



Allan leading Crescent Crack

The same weekend Margaret and Graham went up Moel Elio, a very slippery peak, though thankfully the ascent passed without any incident or wetness.....

Andy Chapman has emailed to say that he is about to depart for Nepal again soon to do Island and Mera Peaks again all being well. I am sure we all wish him luck and he sent the following picture which I am sure he won't mind me publishing.....



Andy captioned this 'Teddy & his passport' ☺

FORTHCOMING MEETS:-

07-08	HUT Weekend
07-08	Wasdale Show (Bryan Gilbert)
15	Saturday Walk: Glyders (Keith Colwell)
21-22	Lakes Camping Barn (Dave Gray)
28-29	Cwm Cywarch Hut Meet (Ray Baines)
NOVEMBER 2011	
04-05	HUT Weekend -Bonfire Party
12	Saturday Walk: Appleton (Mark Barley)
25-26	HUT Weekend

If anybody is interested in the above trips please contact the organiser or, if you are a prospective member, email Chris Harris who will put you in touch with required person.

THE BONFIRE PARTY

Last Tuesday I mentioned during 'OB' that we will not be having fireworks this year and some people expressed concern over this. We now have a number of very large trees overhanging the car park and the committee expressed concern over possible damage to persons attending and personal property (cars etc). I think it only fair, and this is my own personal viewpoint, that any members who feel that fireworks are an integral part of the celebrations and by not having them they would not attend the meet to contact me via email with your suggestions as to how we can find a solution. Members are free to bring their own fireworks and I personally feel that perhaps we could purchase some 'ground' fireworks (ie. not the rockety type !) We've got six weeks yet to find a solution and I welcome your comments.

The cost of the evening is £10 and that includes food and drink. Please contact Dave Gray for more details and / or to make payment ☺

THE CHRISTMAS DINNER

Following on from the success of last year's Christmas dinner we've decided, and have been fortunate to book, the Peerless brewery again. I think costs are in the region of £15 which includes a hot-pot lunch and all the beer you can drink. Non beer drinking people pay a reduced rate but can bring their own wine. Please contact Bryan Gilbert if you are interested in attending this meet which, I believe, is to be held on the 10th December 2011.

IMPORTANT – NOTICE OF SGM

Due to the urgent repair works needed on the cottage bathroom we have decided to call an SGM on Tuesday 25th October 2011 at the Stork public house. The committee feel that such is the nature of the work required it would be more practical and expedient to carry out a full refurbishment of the bathroom and toilet. We are in the process of obtaining quotes and these will be forwarded to the membership in due course.

Essentially the problem is that the old pipe-work has leaked over the last few years and there is some rotting to the floorboards which has now become so bad that the ceiling in the kitchen has started to bulge. The

bathroom certainly has a 'tired' feel to it and we feel it prudent to refurbish it completely in an effort to maintain a good standard and make the cottage more appealing to new users. As always, if you are unable to attend the SGM, you are entitled to vote by email and a further email will be sent out shortly setting out the proposal in full and an idea of expected costs. As the committee has to seek approval from the membership for any expenditure over £750 we trust that you will understand the need to call the meeting.

If any member has any query or suggestions then please feel free to contact me at any time.

Right, that's it I think however some of you may be interested in the following.....

A couple of years ago a few of us attended a Mick Fowler lecture / talk in Shrewsbury and jolly good fun it was too. The company organising the talks have a new series of guests which may be of interest. Please call the number below if you are interested, Shrewsbury as about a one hour drive away from the Wirral !



Tuesday 8th November 2011

PAT LITTLEJOHN - OBE "In Moonraker's Wake" £12 [Buy Now](#)

*This is the follow up to his article in Climb Magazine "In Moonraker's Wake". Pat has dominated the scene when it comes to exploring remote cliffs and establishing new climbs around the world. His outstanding contribution to climbing started with Moonraker on the massive Berry Head in Devon some forty years ago, now one of Britain's most sought after sea cliff climbs. An extraordinary journey across most of the continents of the world has led Pat Littlejohn to be one of the most respected yet approachable faces of climbing, and still going strong. Pat is rarely seen in front of an audience this is **a special occasion** with lots of untold stories and photos.*



Monday 21st November 2011

NICOLAS FAVRESSE & TEAM “Vertical Sailing Greenland” £12 [Buy Now](#)

*2011 winner of the ultimate accolade in mountain achievement the “Piolet d’Or” (the Golden Ice Axe) for their nine first ascents, including the audacious 10 day ascent of Devils Brew, all on the big walls in Greenland. Thanks to Nicola Favresse’s close association to Timmy O’Neill, (who rocked the HS Winter Series last year with his appearance and afterwards said “it was the friendliest and most fun lecture he’d done anywhere) he helped secure this special appearance by Favresse & Sean Villanueva. **An hilarious EXCLUSIVE treat not to be missed** - Also appearing as part of the evening’s entertainment “Trinity Street”.*



Tuesday 6th December 2011

ANDY KIRKPATRICK “Cold Wars” £12 [Buy Now](#)

*We just can’t stop him, back again by popular demand. Andy’s latest book “Cold Wars” is a gripping follow up to his award winning book Psychcovertival, a new twist on the hilarious stories behind the climbs, from Big Wall epics to near death ice experiences. ‘I was aware I was cold – beyond cold. I was a lump of meat left far too long in a freezer, a body trapped beneath the ice, sinking down into the dark. I was freezing to death’. You could just read the book, but as all know sharing his company, drama, wit and side splitting humour in a live stand up Fringe style performance is **entertainment personified!***



Tuesday 10th January 2012

DAVE SIMMONITE “Celluloid Athlete” £12 [Buy Now](#)

His trademark has always been superb technical quality images of extreme sports. Photos published in almost every major climbing magazine and books around the world featuring the best rock

athletes in stunning locations stemming back 3 decades. **This is a rare appearance** as Dave usually prefers to let his outstanding photos do the talking. "The situations I get into are often more dangerous and life threatening than the activity I'm photographing, but that's the fun part of my job!"



Tuesday 7th February 2012

LOWRI DAVIES "Chasing the Ultimate Descent" £12 [Buy Now](#)

*Lowri is a renowned and highly accomplished adventure kayaker, coach and world champion. Freestyle British & European Gold medallist. Having paddled down some of the world's most famous death trap rivers in Mongolia, Siberia, Kazakhstan... she still just loves paddling her own back garden rivers in North Wales when it's raining. The lecture will also include an exclusive account of her most recent ground breaking expedition to Columbia in January 2012 to paddle one of the most ferocious rivers which pour down from the Andes. **Lots of stunning film footage.***



Tuesday 6th March 2012

The LOCAL SPOT £10 [Buy Now](#)

*Several short presentations by local heroes, there's always a treat in store at the Local Spot. They may not be national or international superstars but their stories are no less riveting and dedicated to serious mountain adventure, informative and often hilarious entertainment. **A popular evening.***

Tickets are also available from our Shrewsbury based store!: HIGH SPORTS - 51-52 Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury, TEL : 01743 231649

All lectures start 7.30pm at the GATEWAY CENTRE in Shrewsbury. If you intend to come please buy your tickets in advance as the series will probably all sell out again this year. Buying your ticket on the door you risk being turned away. See you there!

FINAL NOTE : PLEASE OPEN THE SECOND ATTACHMENT MARKED 'SOUVENIR'

