

THE GWYDYR No24(Nov 2011)

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GWYDYR MOUNTAIN CLUB

Thank you everyone who has contributed to this month's newsletter ☺

The month started well with the club bonfire meet at the Chapel which was well attended as usual.

A few days before hand however Bethan and I sneaked in a couple of days climbing in Wales on Little Tryfan and the Moelwyns. It was Beth's first time on multi pitch routes and I think she enjoyed it ☺



Bethan on top pitch of Chic



View from top of Clogwyn Yr Oen

On the 2nd November Jim Metcalfe & Mike Gilbert went for a walk in the Carneddau. With a forecast of severe gales they were not disappointed when they set off from Two Stones. They reached the wall close to Foel Fras which protected them from the wind which then eased slightly affording them the chance to reach Carnedd Unchaf and Foel Grach before returning back the way they had come. They saw no-one all day apart from an RAF Chinook practicing landing and taking off !

On Sunday 6th November Jim was in the Lake District for a walk via Stickle tarn to Harrison Stickle with a descent down by the side of Dungeon Ghyll. The weather was very good and warm with nice clear skies.

The Bonfire meet was a great success which saw mass ascents of Moel Siabod, Creigiau Gleision et al and a particularly fine day on Saturday saw Bethan, Fiona, Andy and I on a great walk up Moelwyn Mawr & Moelwyn Bach.



Fiona, Andy & Bethan in the old mining village above Cwm Orthin



Andy & I 'avin a laff'



The team on top of Moelwyn Mawr



Thanks to Bethan for the pictures above

Not all members were at the Bonfire party and Neil Metcalfe with Teresa Peddie went walking in the Berwyns and 'enjoyed' the challenge of finishing in the dark.

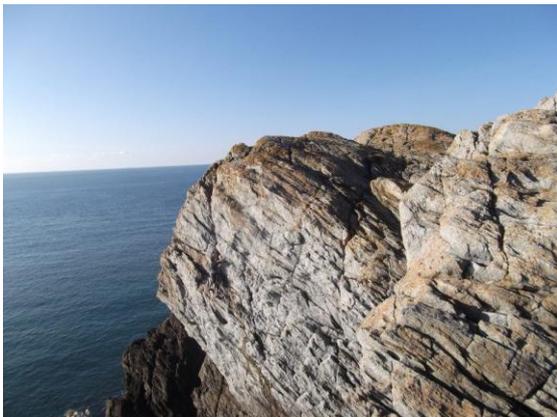
Sunday saw Andy, Fiona, Bethan and I head out to Rhoscolyn for the classic Symphony Crack which was duly ascended by all. Andy and I then did the exciting 'Fanfare' which was great fun ☺



Fiona on Symphony Crack



The gang on top ☺



Moi on Fanfare HVS 4C



Andy on his 'variation' finish !



On the steep bit ☺



Afternoon tea at the White Eagle ☺

All in all a cracking weekend with superb weather.

The weekend after the bonfire saw thirteen members on Mark Barley's Saturday walk around Warrington / Appleton. Apparently the Autumn colours were fantastic as was the pub ☺ Mike Davies was also out and about and walked the old railway line from Shotton to Chester – a long walk of some fifteen miles !

A few days later Andy Odger and I had a cracking short day out on Castell Hellen where we climbed the lovely Lighthouse Arete. The abseil was 'interesting' given the high tide though we managed to avoid the swelling sea by belaying in the small cave just above the true start which was under water !!



Oh yeah ! We'll see about that ☺



The Abseil down to the start



Moi on 1st pitch



Andy clearly enjoying himself ☺



Andy at the top of Lighthouse Arete



South Stack ☺

I'm sure you'll agree from the pictures we had great weather and a great day out ☺

A couple of days later Bethan and I went to Helsby crag, somewhere I had not been to for many a year and I'd forgotten how great a place it is to climb – even if it is a tad slippery and green.

We managed a couple of climbs (Little by Little and CB Crack) before retiring to Chimney's for tea ☺



Bethan on the steep CB Crack



Bethan's first abseil ☺

On the 12th November Teresa went for a walk in the Rhinog's and kindly wrote the following ☺

Walked from Cwm Nantcol, up the pass Bwlch Drws Arduwy between Rhinog Fach and Rhinog Fawr...it was a dry day, with sun and cloud, never once give a thought to the previous rain that we had.... it soon became apparent!...marshes were lakes, paths were streams, rocks were slippy, but slow and careful progress and several detours later, the only mishap was one leg up my knee in bog;-o.

I scrambled up the almost vertical zig-zag path through the heather, and round the back of Rhinog Fach, arriving on the South summit to be rewarded by fantastic views of the coast and Northern Snowdonia. Not a soul about and such quiet and stillness was both wonderful and eerie...a feeling of isolation and vulnerability so totally alone in such awesome surroundings. A short scramble over to the northern and highest summit, and then a steep scramble and a bit of scree surfin took me down to the beautiful and very blue Llyn Hewyl.

A short sharp scramble up the rocky side of Yr Lethyr and I'd reached the grassy dome of its summit, with Crib y Rhiw, the stunning ridge to Diffwys laid out temptingly before me lol. After an internal battle common sense prevailed and the fast falling daylight persuaded me to save that one for another day:-)

A gentle walk off down the grassy slopes of Yr Lethyr and an amble down the lane to my car gave me ample time to take in the beauty of the Rhinogs in the amber glow of the setting sun... a fitting end to a wonderful day!





Thanks for that Teresa, sounds and looks like you had a really good day !

The weekend of the 19th November saw Andy, Neil, Teresa, Lorraine & Dave, Bethan and I head out to the Chapel for some fun. It had been a somewhat indulgent Friday night at Bethan's house and a blearily eyed convoy eventually found itself parked at the Plas Y Brenin lay-by. We were joined by Carol (Bethan's friend) and we had a pleasant afternoon playing on the blocks. It was Lorraine and Carol's first time climbing and a good giggle was had by all in improving weather with a beautiful sunset to round the day's activities off. An impressive bout of drinking / thigh wrestling (!!) took place in the Tyn Y Coed before we retired to the Chapel for some solid nourishment ably provided by Bethan and I ☺



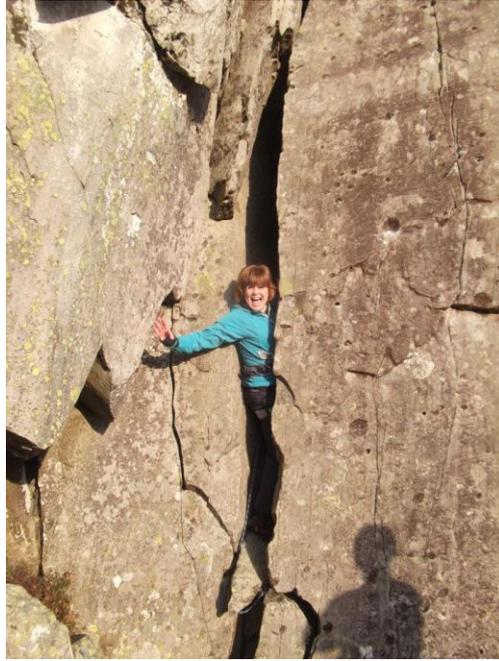
The gang – minus me !!



Lorraine on her 1st climb



Neil on Ginnel Wall E1, 5b



Bethan in Ginnel Chimney



Me on Ginnel Wall



Me on some other horror !!!!



Climbing at the Blocks ☺



Sunset and Drinking games ☺

The next morning we awoke a little less livelier than the day before, which is an impressive understatement believe me ! The weather showed little signs of improving and so given that three of our party had significantly longer drives to face at the end of the day we headed to Llangollen and Trevor Rocks. We did not forget the seemingly necessary 'cafe-stop' for a second breakfast and under a cold and cloudy sky we made our way to the Railway Buttress where we sorted out a climb and abseil session which was great fun.



A quick pint in the Sun Inn at Trevor rounded off a great weekend.

Teresa didn't feel like climbing this weekend so she took herself off on some great walks, Saturday she went up Y Garn and Sunday she walked on the Arenig's – how she found the energy for such strenuous exercise I don't know but a great effort despite the poor weather ☺



My notes from Dave Gray are a bit hard to decipher but I think Graham, Margaret, Debbie & Keith Tavener went for a circular walk or bike ride around Halkyn Mountain – apologies if it's wrong ☺

The weekend of the 26th November saw several members out and about in the Chapel though the weather was far from kind. Dave Gray, Helen Avison, Bethan Hines etc went for a walk in the woods while Neil, who came out later went up Moel Elio in rather strong winds. Adrian Dolan, Kevin McEvoy and Ray Baines braved the Glyders. Margaret and Graham were in the Lake District and did Galbarrow Fell to Dockray Village (probably spelt wrong – sorry ☺)

FORTHCOMING MEETS :-

DECEMBER 2011	
01	Thursday Walk: Wats Dyke Way
10	Sat Walk Berwyns (Dave Gray)
10	Christmas Dinner (Bryan Gilbert)
25-26	HUT (Christmas/New Year Meet)

Dave Gray has re-arranged the Sat Walk of the 10th December to the Clwydians (Moel Fendig) to allow people more time to get back home and change for the Christmas Dinner at the Peerless Brewery. Last year's event was a great success and so one has high hopes for this year. Please feel free to wear something 'Christmassy' – I may even wear my Santa Suit if it does not get ruined this Sunday on the Santa Dash ☺

MISCELLANEOUS:-

The Cottage Bathroom refurbishment is moving on apace and Geoff will forward an email to the membership in due course to advise when it is completed and when we can start taking bookings. Apparently there were one or two 'slight' problems encountered during the works but given the age of the property that had to be expected.

The next newsletter will be done a few days later than normal given the New Year break.

Merry Christmas everyone ☺

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