

THE GWYDYR No24(DEC 2011)

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GWYDYR MOUNTAIN CLUB

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE 😊

Firstly there were a couple of items received too late for the November newsletter and I'll include them now for completeness. Firstly Richard and Melinda Kinsman had a good day with Tony Lamberton climbing in the Moelwyns, Melinda sent me the following :-

During the great Saturday weather of the bonfire weekend, Rich and I had a beautiful warm day at Tremadog. Two of the pictures below are of Rich on Valerie's Rib (HS) and then One Step in The Clouds (VS) respectively. We only got the 2 routes done, due to an INCREDIBLY slow group of 3 on the second, but it was the first time I'd done "One Step", the views were great, and it felt wonderful to be climbing in just thermal tops in November! I also entertained myself for about half an hour sitting on a ledge teasing out one of the group in front's cams that had walked its way right back into a narrow crack (not easy when they have awkward "2 finger" release triggers).

We were lucky enough to get out on rock again with Tony in the Moelwyns on Sunday November 13th November. Despite the high winds forecast, we managed to stay sheltered for all but the top of 2 routes. Tony kindly led the first bit of Africa Rib (VDiff), then he let me lead the rest of the climb. This was fortunate, as choosing the right hand chimney start proved to be a step too far, forcing me to follow straight up the overhanging lump of rock to the left of it!

Rich and Tony shared the lead for Asahel (S) next. We then headed over the road to do The White Streak, before I was allowed to lead the slightly-damp Honeysuckle Corner variation (HS, 4b). Tony appears to have taken a picture of me doing the splits on this, which I didn't even know I could manage! I felt quite comfortable leading it, but was surprised when Tony pointed back up to it from the road - the long dark corner looked a bit more serious than I had remembered!





At the beginning of December myself, Bethan Hines, Teresa Peddie and Neil Metcalfe went to the Chapel for the express purpose of putting up the Christmas decorations. The weather was far from good and so, sadly, little was done on the mountaineering front.



A few days later myself, Bethan and Teresa went up Mynydd Mawr from Rhyn Du. It was dry but very windy on top though I did manage to introduce to the girls the delights of a Bothy Bag. A pleasant 'off the hill' mulled wine in Quellyn Arms rounded off a lovely day out.



Bethan and I also managed a late afternoon walk from Llanberis up to Cefn Du where sadly it was too cold to linger and there was no delightful sunset to greet us on the summit ☹️

On the 10th December Dave Gray, along with nine other members and prospective members went for a walk up Moel Fammau and Foel Fenlli prior to our Christmas dinner at the Peerless Brewery. It proved to be another excellent night with much booze and merriment with well over 50 of us present. It was good to meet Carole Roberts who had come up from Cornwall and one hopes she soon joins the fold again. If that was not enough we had our own blue boozy Santa offering all the girls his Christmas wishes 😊





The following Monday Dave Gray, Christine Smyth & Mark Cashman went for a short walk on the Sandstone Trail & Delamere Way.

The following weekend myself, Beth and Andy Odger went for an evening wander in the Peak District after spending the Saturday mooching around the Christmas markets in Manchester. A late start Sunday morning saw us on Mam Tor at midday for a pre-breakfast ramble. Some shopping and a cafe followed before a lovely late afternoon walk over Higgarr Tor and Carl Wark (Iron Age Fort) saw us see a dramatic and cold sunset – eased slightly by a flask or two of mulled wine ☺





Neil Metcalfe also went for a walk in the snow and went up Tryfan and Y Garn.

Christmas Day saw Andy Odger high on Moel Siabod in rain and wind before beginning his festivities and from Boxing Day onwards many members came and went from the Chapel having good days on the hill despite the unseasonable and unfavourable weather.

Among the hills done were Foel Grach, Moel Penamnen and Moel Siabod twice. A sterling effort was made to reach the summit of Carnedd Llewellyn in very strong winds by Neil Metcalfe, Ray Baines and Teresa Peddie. Such was the strength of the winds at one point that Teresa was bowled over sustaining an impressive bruise to her bum and thigh – I've asked for a picture but she has declined 😊

Given the poor weather a fair number of low level walks were done including Llyn Elsi above Betws and the seemingly obligatory Crafnant ramble.

I came out on the evening of the 29th and on the 30th Myself, Neil, Hugh Nettleton, Bethan, Andy Odger and his two friends Andy & Lesley went for a walk round the hills and muddy paths of Capel Garmon. We took in the

impressive Burial Chamber as well as a lot of slippy mud and rain. Andy Odger has asked me to state that he NEVER fell over and any point !!



Helen & Beth in Foel Grach shelter, Dave Gray & Geoff deciding how to get down ☺

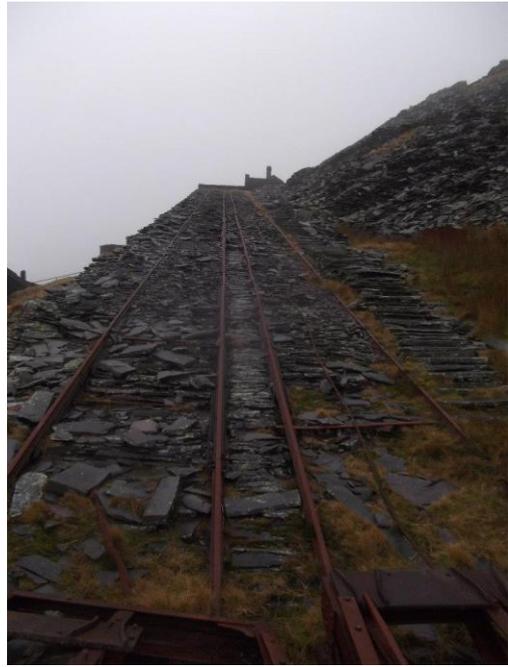
The following day, with the weather still a tad miserable, myself with Bethan, Neil and Andy went for a wander in the Llanberis Slate Quarries and we had a cracking day climbing old rusty ladders, walking through tunnels, peering into big holes and marvelling at the amazing industrial landscape that must have been a nightmare to work in its day. I can thoroughly recommend such a walk on a wet day and it's perfectly safe though hard work walking up and down the inclines and steps. It's easy to forget that Llanberis is quite lowly and to walk to the top quarries involves over 2000ft of ascent so it's not always the easy day out you may think.

At the end of the newsletter I have scanned the pages from the new Llanberis guide detailing a few of the walks – some are clearly more exciting than others.....



Guess what ?? I found out how to take sepia photo's on my camera !!



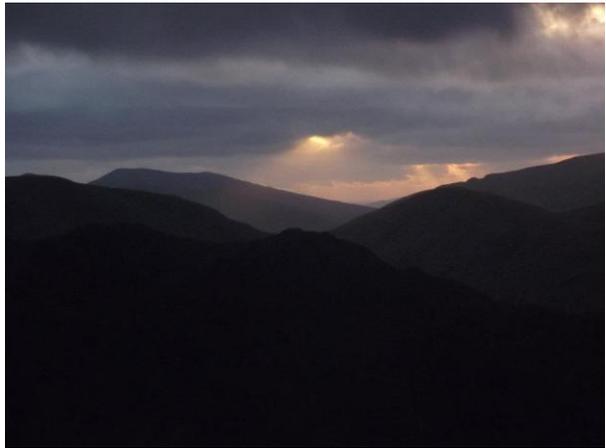


New Years Eve was, as usual, spent in the Tyn Y Coed. A total of sixteen people were out at the Chapel and a great time was had by all though one can't help thinking the copious amounts of booze helped ☺



The next day saw a mass exodus of members leave the Chapel and only four of us were left to get something done. A short walk up to Llyn Elsi soothed our hangovers (or was it the hair of the dog in the Royal Oak ??). A pleasant evening in the Chapel with lots of goodies and a massively impressive cheese board rounded off a good day.

The following day it was just me and Bethan left and so we eventually went for a walk up Elidir Fawr. It was quite windy and cold near the summit so we sheltered in the Bothy Bag drinking hot soup and finished our walk in near darkness. A really good day.



The next day we awoke to the sound of heavy rain and swollen rivers..... there was little else to do given the forecast for the next couple of days and so after a brief look at the rivers we came home after a good few days away which will hopefully set things up nicely for the coming year ☺



FORTHCOMING MEETS

12	Thur Walk: Wirral (Jan Coates)
20-21	Sat Walk: Berwyns (Dave Gray)
27-28	HUT Burns Night (Geoff Brierley)
FEBRUARY 2012	
03-04	Sat Walk: Llangollen (Keith Colwell)
17-18	Sat Walk: Pennine Station to Station (Dave Gray)
24-25	HUT Mountain Bike Beginners (Geoff Brierley)

Should anyone want to attend any of the above meets please contact the organiser directly.

Most Tuesdays we manage to get to the climbing wall in Liverpool before meeting at the Stork so if you want to come along please email or call me. Don't worry if you have not got any equipment as it can be hired or you can usually borrow what you need from one of the regulars ☺

Also, Andy Chapman has given us a new date for his talk on his successful ascent of Everest last year. It will be on Tuesday 17th January 2012 at the Stork pub and starts at 8.30pm prompt. Andy's achievement is something we can all take pride in and one hopes there will be a good turn out !

Well that's all for now folks and here's hoping 2012 will be kind to us on the weather front so we can get out in the hills ☺