

THE GWYDYR No25(JAN2012)

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GWYDYR MOUNTAIN CLUB

Well the new year is underway and already we've had some cracking days out in the hills and mountains.

First meet up was a good walk in the southern Clwyds with 16 members out doing a good circuit including Moel Gyw, Moel Llanfair, Bryn Alyn etc. Apparently the community run pub at Llanarmon Yn Lal (The Raven) was a cracker and as Dave rightly states we should really all make a special effort for the first walk of the new year 😊

Second meet up was Janet Coates Wirral Coast to Coast walk on Thursday 12th January. Apparently it was well attended which is good to hear for a mid-week meet. Janet kindly provided me with the following :-

A group of 7, Dave Gray, Dave Antrobus, Dave Chadwick, Janet Harris, Chris Harris, Roger Harris and Janet Coates departed Parkgate Old Baths. Under clear blue skies and in glorious sunshine we walked along the estuary to Gayton, inland through Heswall Beacons and Whitfield Common, then using footpaths and quiet lanes across the fields to Barnston and Storeton. We then turned south to Brimstage, passing Thornton Manor and returning to Parkgate, a distance of 13 miles. We then enjoyed a drink in the Ship on the front at Parkgate and were rewarded with views of a spectacular sunset over the marshes.

Thanks Janet 😊

Myself, Bethan, Teresa, Neil, Carol and John found ourself in the Lake District on the following weekend where we were grateful to experience a couple of cracking winter days out. Carol Boothroyd & John Driver went up Helvellyn on the Saturday where the skies were blue and the ground was white. It was a bitterly cold day with the slightest of breezes chilling to the bone. Bethan, Teresa, Neil and I did the classic Langdale circuit of Crinkle Craggs and Bowfell from the ODG. We left under blue skies and cloud filled valleys and as we ascended higher up to Red Tarn we broke into the sun which warmed us greatly and enhanced the deep valleys beneath.

After a miserable period of weather over new year the contrast was remarkable and a great boost to our spirits.

There was little breeze but when it blew it chilled to the core and when you were in the shade it chilled terribly. The paths were very slippery in places though we made good time over the tops and, in true Gwydyr style, made the 'off the hill' in the Old Dungeon Ghyll as the last of the daylight faded 😊 A brilliant day out !



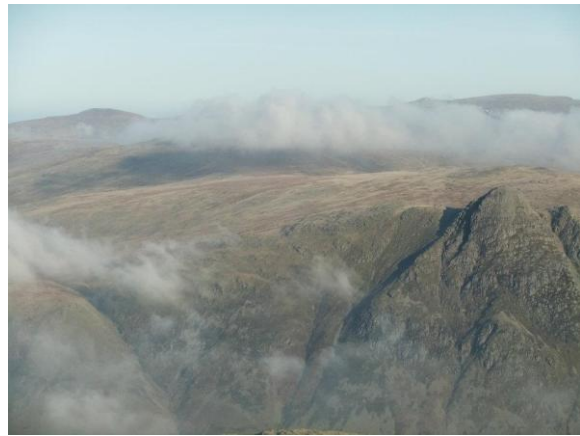
Towards Bowfell from Stool End Farm



Neil, Beth & Teresa in the cold shade



Scafell & her Pike !!



Pike O'Stickle from Bowfell



Neil, Beth & Teresa during lunch



Beth & Teresa on Bowfell

The next day, after a good night at Thorney How Independent Hostel in Grasmere (Expensive but recommended !), Carol & John went up Lingmoor Fell while the rest of us went up the wide path behind the New Dungeon Ghyll Hotel. We headed for Pavey Ark and Jack's Rake which afforded us a pleasant though occasionally icy scramble to the summit. The views were incredible with the low winter sun casting deep shadows and when one found oneself in the shade and wind we were chilled to the bone.



A frosty Little Langdale and Elterwater on Sunday morning.



Neil, Beth & Teresa heading up to Stickle Tarn



Stickle Tarn



Beth, Teresa & Neil at start of Jacks Rake



Beth, Teresa & Neil moving up Jacks Rake



Neil at the top of Jacks Rake



Yours truly on a perilous stream crossing !!!



Bethan photo of a frosty Langdale ☺

A really great weekend out, one can only hope it is to be the first of many this year.

On the 16th of this month Dave Gray and Christine Smythel went for a walk on Pendle Hill and Dave kindly provided the following :-

Pendle Hill

This Monday (16th) Christine Smyth and I had a day out – equally sunny – doing a full circuit of Pendle Hill from Barley. We crossed a vast golden moorland on the summit plateau courtesy of totally frozen ground – this might not be one to repeat when it thaws! We had brilliant all round views of Bowland, Ingleborough and Pen-y-Ghent, Trawden Forest and the moors around Darwen.

The following weekend saw a good number of members, existing and prospective, out on Dave Gray's Berwyn Walk. By all accounts it was a tad windy at times with a couple of members taking a great interest in the numerous boggy patches.....



Thanks to Bethan for the Photo's ☺

The following weekend was the seemingly traditional Burn's night meet at the Chapel. Twenty odd members turned up for the food, booze & hills (not necessarily in that order !) and a great weekend it was.

Saturday dawned cold and crisp and a motely crew of some seventeen members made their way to Rhydd Ddu for an ascent of Snowdon. The valleys were tinged with frost but the view higher up promised much snow and we were not to be disappointed as we crested the south ridge. It was a true winter scene before us with just enough snow to give a proper winter experience without their being any cause for alarm for those of us inexperienced in winter walking.

The summit was not too busy and we even managed to get a summit photograph with just the Gwydyr members stood by the cairn. On the descent the team split into two, one group electing to descend the Snowdon Ranger path while the remainder descended the south ridge proper to reach the col beneath Yr Aran before following the old quarryman's track back to Rhydd Ddu and a lovely couple of beers in the Quellyn Arms (expensive but nice !)

It proved to be a brilliant winter's day out and the meal that followed rounded off a great day. Messrs Gilbert had a good day out on the Carneddau while Geoff and Reg continued their sterling work on the Cottage. Geoff, in particular, deserves special praise for his culinary skills – thanks Geoff it was great 😊



The party getting ready for the snow



An 'arty' shot of Mynydd Mawr !



Approaching the south ridge



At last ! We made the south ridge !!



The Gwydyr strung out along Snowdon south ridge 😊



Lunch – at last !

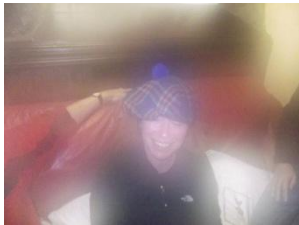


The Gwydyr @ the summit cairn !!!

It was a really great day and the Burn's night meal was, as I've said, excellent with great food, lots of booze and a wee fair smattering of poetry and prose with a distincy Scottish theme ☺

Let's see if you can 'spot' yourself in the following rogues gallery





There are more photographs however the Editor (me !) has decided they are unsuitable for publication ha ha ☺

It was a cracking night with much drinking, eating, singing and well more drinking !!

The forecast for Sunday was sadly not as good however, after cleaning the Chapel and making sure our beloved treasurer was still alive (☺) Andy Odger, Neil, Bethan and I made our way to Deiniolen where we made our way up Carnedd Y Ffilliast and Mynedd Perfedd in 'proper' winter conditions. Also, Chris, Janet & Katie Harris et al went for a very snowy walk up Pen Yr Helgi Du. It was nice that so many of us managed to get out after such a long night and it really shows where our heart lies ☺



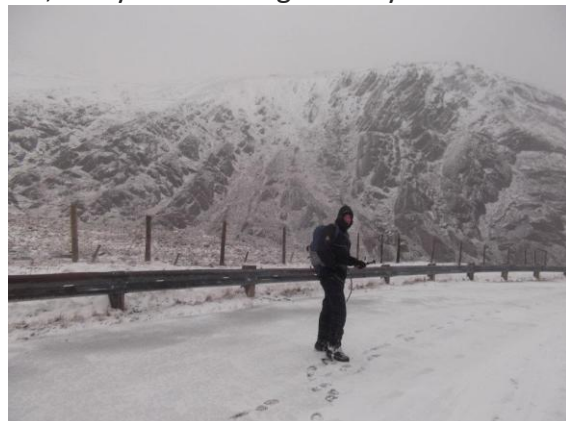
Andy & Kev McEvoy enjoying the hills!



Me, Andy & Kev being suitably macho



Andy, Beth & Kev on the summit



Me walking out on the Dam(n) road



Beth, Andy & me on the approach slopes



Kev approaching the summit of Fylliast !



Katie's pictures of a wintry Carneddau ☺

One thing worthy of mention is that Mike Gilbert walk on Saturday on the Carneddau where he managed Yr Elen which meant that he's climbed all 14 of the Welsh 3000's in the past 12 months – nice one ☺ Also Mike Mc & Ross did 10-12 miles in the Clwydian range with perfect weather and magnificent views on the Saturday.

Next meet up was a walk organised at short notice by Chris Harris and another good wintry walk was enjoyed by all concerned.

FORTHCOMING MEETS :-

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)
MARCH 2012	

01	Thur Walk: Helsby (Mike Mceneany)
09-10	Sat Walk: Kinder Scout (Mark Barley)
20	CLUB AGM
23-24	HUT 45th Annual Dinner (Sue Taylor et al)
30-31	South Highlands (Adrian Dolan)

If anyone is interested in any of the above meets please contact the organiser and if you don't have their number contact myself or Chris Harris and we'll put you in touch.