

THE GWYDYR NO29(MAY/JUNE 2012)

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GWYDYR MOUNTAIN CLUB

Hello all, I've decided to do the newsletter every six weeks now so as to ease my workload and also give people the opportunity to send pictures etc to me outside of an 'end of month' deadline – I hope it all works anyway ☺

Kevin McEvoy gave me the picture below of Tan Y Garth not long after the club had purchased it in the early seventies. Do any other members have good photo's of the early days ? It would be nice if we could create an on-line archive so get mooching through your old photo's and slides, I'm sure there are some real gems out there.



Well after the washout that was April the last few weeks have been largely dry and many members have been out and about both in the UK and abroad ☺

First thing I have this month are a couple of great articles from Lin and Paul Jensen :-

Way of the Roses

27 April-1 May

As walkers, we had always hoped to do a cross country route but somehow, it never happened. However, we decided to have a go at one of the many cycling routes which traverse the country, sea to sea.

The Way of the Roses is a new cycle route opened in September 2010 taking you from Morecombe to Bridlington. The route passes through the Lune valley, the Forest of Bowland, the Yorkshire Dales, Nidderdale, the Vale of York and the Yorkshire Wolds. The scenery is stunning and varied as you make your way from the Irish sea to the North sea.



There were many challenges both before and during the trip. First off was to pre-book the accommodation and train travel. This accomplished, all we had to do was ride it!

As with all cross country routes, either walking or cycling you are recommended to travel from West to East to take advantage of westerly winds. Unfortunately we were buffeted by strong north easterlies all the way! Added to that we probably experienced our worst ever riding conditions on Sunday 29 April when the whole country was deluged by torrential rain. We had to ride! Hostel was booked, train was booked, I couldn't change the itinerary.



In the 50 miles from Pateley Bridge to York we stopped twice and saw nothing! We were even forced off the cycle route before we got to the city because of flooding. We arrived at the hostel two shivering wrecks.



But the next day the sun shone and the rest of the journey was a real pleasure. We finished on the prom in Bridlington and rewarded ourselves with fish and chips.

FACTS and FIGURES,

Day 1 Morecombe to Settle 42 miles

Day 2 Settle to Pateley Bridge 27 miles

Day 3 Pateley Bridge to York 50 miles

Day 4 York to Nr. Driffield 39 miles

Day 5 Driffield to Bridlington 30 miles

Our accommodation included two pubs, a guesthouse, a hostel and a Travelodge. Cost £250.

Train travel, Liverpool-Lancaster and Scarborough-Liverpool. Cost £47, a mere snip all booked on advanced tickets and with 'the ancients' rail cards!

The rest of the expenditure (not telling you!) on masses of food, beer and wine!



Prior to going I sent for trip notes from a firm called Skedaddle who do lots of supported bike trips. It would have cost us twice as much if we had travelled with them. Anyway, it's much more rewarding if you sort it yourself.



Yes, it was very challenging, particularly with some of the weather we had. It was also hugely rewarding and a great sense of achievement. We saw Northern England at its best and met lots of friendly people. What more can you ask for? (Maybe a 5* inclusive somewhere?!)

And then

FYLDE COAST and RIVER WYRE

5-7th May Cycle camping trip.

Only three nights after returning from Way of the Roses and we were off again! This time up to Lancashire with Graham, Margaret, Keith and Debbie cycle camping.

Graham knows the area well and had planned a weekend of relaxing touring and interesting sightseeing. It proved to be excellent cycling country and a good choice for a bank holiday weekend as it was quiet and peaceful.

We met at Glasson dock on the river Lune south of Lancaster; a real hidden gem and well worth a visit. Having parked the cars and loaded up we set off for Lancaster on the Lancashire Coastal Way.

We visited Atkinson's, a fabulous coffee emporium before joining the canal tow path south as far as Galgate for a pub lunch. We made our way through Garstang before we turned off to St. Michael's on Wyre where we were based for the next two nights at a small, quiet, well tended campsite with adequate facilities and very friendly hens!



Sunday dawned bright and sunny. The main focus today was to explore the coast and the river Wyre. Lovely cycling on narrow lanes brought us to Knott End on Sea which boasts a tiny passenger ferry across the Wyre to Fleetwood. It just about took all six bikes! Once in Fleetwood, again thanks to Graham's local knowledge we treated ourselves to amazing fish and chips at

Richardson's, a very up-market fish bar, the monk fish tails and crisp white wine going down a treat!



Continuing south we made our way to Wyreside Coastal Park, passing some unusual moorings on the muddy banks of Skippool Creek. We had a pint of Giddy Kipper at Cartford Bridge then made our way back to camp.

Monday was cool and blustery but better than predicted as we broke camp to cycle back to the cars at Glasson dock via Pilling and yet another enormous pub lunch!

We covered a leisurely 76 miles with lots of eating and drinking along the way. Thanks to Graham for being an excellent 'tour leader' and Keith and Debbie for the additional luxury of BBQ and chairs!

Lin & Paul Jensen



Thanks very much for that Lin & Paul, looks like two great trips ☺

At about the same time the Mike & Brian Gilbert with Andy Chapman had a bit of a re-union at the Pen Y Gwryd Hotel to celebrate the twenty year anniversary of their Mingbo La epic.

The weekend of the 18th & 19th May was Kevin MvEvoy's Coniston meet at the Barrow Ski & Mountaineering hut in the Coppermines Valley. A great, well attended meet, saw ascents of Weatherlam, Old Man of Coniston, Crinkle Crag and some low level walks. Sunday saw myself, Beth, Neil and Mark on Raven Crag (Watlendath) Langdale where we climbed a cracking couple of routes in glorious spring sunshine.

Kevin kindly provided the following :-

Coniston Meet June 2012

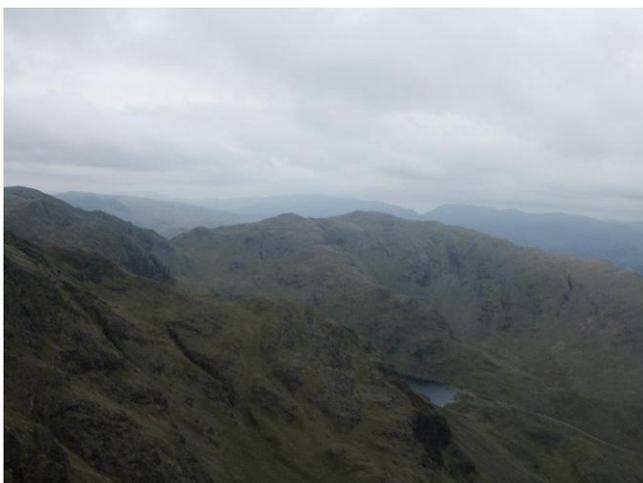
Fifteen intrepid explorers found their way across the lunar landscape which passes as a road in these here parts! The Barrow- in Furness hut was like home from home and everybody settled in to celebrate our beloved Chairman's Birthday with a class or two of Tizer.

Saturday arrived cloudy but dry and we set out to get lost, by pure chance we wandered over Wetherlam before stumbling our way up Prison Band to Swirl How. By now we must have looked like we knew what we were doing so we pressed on over Brim Fell to the Old Man. After lunch we headed west, or was it south Who knows? Who cares? Eventually we found ourselves on the pointed top of Dow Crag. Buck Pike & Brown Pike didn't put up much of a struggle so we quickly found ourselves on the Walna Scar Road. As luck would have it this track led straight to the Sun Inn.

Need I say more!

Sunday morning we woke to blue skies and thick heads, after breakfast on the patio we decided we'd had enough of each other, so Sue, Ray, Adrian and myself drove to Langdale and headed up Oxendale, over Great Knott and on to Crinkle Crag where we were rewarded with great views down the Langdale Valley and beyond. We stopped for lunch at Three Tarns where Adrian showed us he went to the same stone throwing college as Sue!! I'll let them explain!

On Sunday Allan, Beth, Andy, Mark, Neil and Theresa went climbing in the Langdale Valley and Margaret, Graham, Keith and Debbie went into Coniston for some retail therapy.



Lakeland views.....



Neil Scrambling on Dow Crag



Approaching the summit of Dow Crag

Teresa was also busy in May when she was in Yorkshire on the classic Three Peaks walk and she has kindly sent me the following :-

As you all know, I had a nasty accident on top of Y Garn in May last year, I was alone with no phone signal in deteriorating weather, with a head and knee injury, and had to be rescued of the mountain by **Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Team**. I believe I owe my life to the team, who came to my aid in the most appalling weather, and were superb, professional, caring, and managed to make me laugh even in such awful circumstances. I count myself lucky every single time that I walk in the hills that they were there for me on that day and so I can still enjoy the hills today.

I really wanted to try and give a little bit back and raise money for the team, and decided in November last year to organise a group challenge with my work colleagues at Airbus, to raise as much money as possible for this amazing charity.

With a huge amount of organisation and preparation, including 5 training walks in Snowdonia, organising bunkhouse, evening celebration, support vehicle and 2 trainee ML's, one of which was prospective member Melanie Day, we took 28 people on the Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge on 5th May and **we raised in total £3002 for OVMRO. Airbus then added 10% which took the total to £3300.**



As rewarding as raising the money was the fantastic personal achievements of our team...every one completed in less than 11 hrs, the quickest on the day did it in 8 hours, and one colleague couldn't make the date did it on his own at Easter in 6 hrs to raise over £200 himself.



A group of us presented the cheque to Jo Worrall, The OVMRO treasurer, on 27th May, just over a year after my accident...and then proceeded to indulge in a great scramble up LLech Ddu Spur onto Carnedd Daffydd to make the most of what turned out to be a wonderful day.



I can never repay the debt that I owe the Ogwen Valley Mountain rescue team, they do such a wonderful job, totally voluntary and totally funded by charity, and they are there for every one of us every single day that we walk and climb in the mountains, should we ever need them.

Well done in raising funds Teresa and one should mention that Beth and Steve also raised something like £2500 between them for Ogwen Mountain Rescue and Cancer Research. Indeed what with Helen Brady's parachute jump heroics and Chris and Janet Harris impending Coast to Coast walk we are all certainly doing our bit for many charitable causes.

Melinda Kinsman has been out and about rock climbing recently with Andy Chapman and she is now climbing better than she has done for many a year by climbing Hard VS's so good effort Melinda 😊



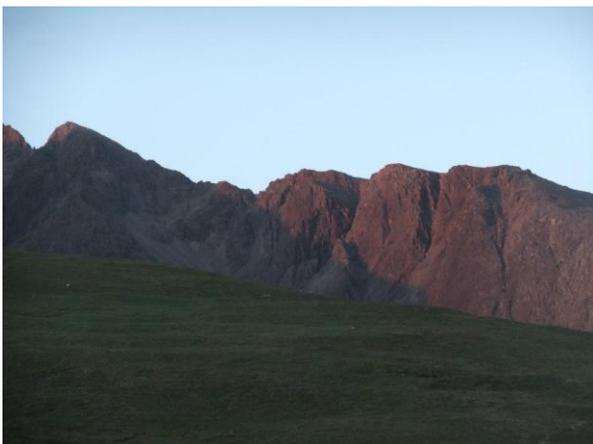
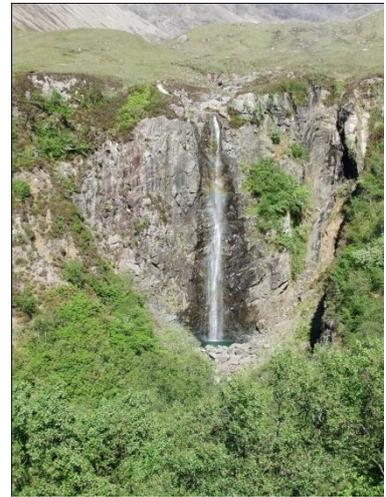
Andy Chapman at top of Crackerjack on Tryfan 😊

Towards the end of the month we were graced with a period of settled, warm weather (at last). Beth and I were fortunate enough to be in the wonderful Isle of Skye for ten days of utterly brilliant walking and scrambling.

Ordinarily whenever I have been to Skye in the past I've concentrated on the Cuillin however I've neglected some superb walking in the Trotternish area. The first two days saw us on The Storr and Quiriang and we were afforded some cracking views over to the Hebridees, Applecross and Torridon hills. We then concentrated our efforts around Sligachan and Glen Brittle and had some great days out in and on Coire Lagan, Marsco, Blaven, and Sgurr Nan Gillean and a really long day up onto Sgurr Dearg with great views of the queue's on the Inaccessible Pinnacle. To round the trip off we took the Bella Jane boat from Elgol into Loch Scavaig and Corusik and visited the Isle of Skye museum. While queuing for the boat we espied a group of sea kayakers and were pleasantly surprised to see Carol Boothroyd and John Driver who had paddled over from Coruisk that morning and they had spent a pleasant lunch hour or two on the Isle of Soay – a great way to travel methinks 😊 We were also very fortunate to espy a Golden Eagle while on Marsco and in Glen Brittle, I managed to catch a brief glimpse of some Dolphins / Porpoise on the Mallaig – Armadale ferry 😊

I hope you enjoy the pictures







It wasn't all fun though we had a bit of a tough time with the midgies at the Beinn Glas campsite near Loch Lomond on the long journey home



At the same time we were in Skye a group were staying in Torridon and Dave Gray kindly emailed me the following information :-

We had a great time, the weather was superb with wall to wall sunshine most days!

We all mixed and matched what we did in what was a very full week packed with hill and other activity

1. David and John did a full traverse of Beinn Eighe from Kinlochewe to Torridon including the munros Ruadh Stac Mor and Spidean Coire nan Clach
2. Geoff, David and John did a full traverse of Liathach including the Fasarinen Pinnacles and the munros Mullach an Rathain and Spidean a Choire Leith. Geoff has some truly gut wrenching video footage of the pinnacles!
3. We all did the munro of Tom na Grugaich on Alligin and David, John, Geoff and I went on to the main Alligin summit of Sgurr Mor, the other three then went further over the Horns of Alligin for the full traverse. A great achievement for Reg given his impending knee operation!
4. Geoff, John and I had a magnificent wilderness day on stalkers' paths on the south side of Glen Torridon to do the munro of Maol Chean-dearg.
5. In terms of lower hills between 2000 and 2500 feet Reg and I did Beinn na-h Eaglaise on the south side, and David, John and I went round south of Shildaig to climb Sgurr a Gharaidh, a really wild peak overlooking Loch Carron that has strange limestone karst formations on it. I also repeated on my own the corbett Sgurr nan Lochain Uaine in the Coulin Forest south of Torridon.
6. Reg and Geoff did a big tough bike ride being a loop from just west of Shildaig, all around Applecross and back via Shildaig to Torridon, taking in the Bealach na Ba, the third highest road in Scotland rising to over 2000 feet. I'm not sure if they caught up the mobile library that whizzed past just before they started... Reg also biked Glen Torridon to Kinlochewe and back.
7. Geoff and Reg had two good days fishing for wild brown trout and got a fish big enough for a starter for two!

So a great trip, Torridon Youth Hostel was a fine place to stay with good facilities, friendly and well-run. I got the chance to call in and see John Beamer who sends his good wishes to all; we had a great chat and he lent me a book on the trawlers my family used to sail which is magic.

Thanks to all my companions for a fine expedition, especially to Reg for organizing the trip.

Regards

Dave

PS – wildlife highlights were Deer, Otter, Mountain Hare, Golden Eagle, Ptarmigan with chicks, Dipper, Whooper Swan, Buzzard and Herons

One hopes that Geoff manages to post a link to his video's of those pinnacles ☺

As I've been away for the past few weeks on a Tuesday I've not been down to the Stork to get regular updates so apologies if I've missed anything this month though you can always email me ☺

FORTHCOMING MEETS:-

JUNE 2012	
02-09	Torridon YH Week (BH) (Reg Cromer)
22-24	Canal Trip (3 Days) (Sue Taylor)
29-30	HUT Weekend Welsh 3000's (Dave Gray)
JULY 2012	
05	Thur Walk Wirral Shore to Shore (Mike McEneany)

06-07	Summer BBQ Brynchrug (Nuala Dunn)
13-14	Lleyn Peninsula Hills / Coast (Dave Gray)
27-28	HUT Weekend

The next main meet is the annual Welsh 3000's meet and it is looking like it could be a good one with plenty of people having a go though we would like more and especially help with the support teams would be greatly appreciated so please email me if you can help. Email's have been sent in relation to this meet recently but feel free to contact me if you are not sure.

As I mentioned in a previous email I will be doing the news letter every six weeks or so now rather than monthly as it was proving too much to do so often. Please though feel free to email me any articles or pictures you would like to see..