



Promoting Interest in Mountain Activities

The Gwydyr Monthly Newsletter March 2015

Hello and welcome to the March edition of the monthly newsletter, thank you to all of those who provided content for this newsletter.

Once again I would ask as many members as possible to send me details of what they have done, or are intending to do, as this provides the content for the newsletter,

What's On This Month?

7 Saturday Walk: Brown Clee Hill (Pete Mann).

17 Annual General Meeting: Stork.

20-21 Hut Weekend: 48th Annual Dinner.

Future Attractions!

April

3-4 Easter Bank Holiday.

17-18 Hut Weekend: Members 70th Birthday Celebrations.

24-25 Hut Weekend: St George's Day (Geoff Brierley).

May

1-2 Brecon Beacons (Lindsey Fooks).

Margaret's birthday activity weekend.

15-16 Hut Weekend: cycle to hut (Chris Harris).

Gail's Birthday Ceildh.

22-30 Ullapool Self catering Week (Teresa Peddie).



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Recent Activity

January

31 Wirral Walk-Jan Coates.

Nine people including three prospective members attended this circular walk beginning in Parkgate through Hinderton, Thornton Hough, Brimstage and back to Parkgate. The walk used paths that some members were not familiar with and some of which proved to be extremely muddy. It was a bright and breezy winter's day providing crisp views over the Dee marshes to a very snowy and wintry looking North Wales.

February

7 Blackstone Edge. Brenda Turnball writes - there were 13 people on the meet including a guest and a prospective member. This was my first attempt at organizing a meet, and being a less experienced walker I felt a little nervous. My librarian skills kicked in and I found the perfect book to help me "Pathfinder series: Lancashire". I'd like to thank all that came and made it a great day but a big thank you to Dave Gray for helping me with the navigation.

It was a lovely sunny day, although a little cloudy once we got to the top of Blackstone Edge, so the views weren't as brilliant as I've seen them in the past, but still a great view of our starting point at the lake. There was still quite a bit of snow and ice higher up, which made a couple of places a bit slippery but it certainly enhanced the views.

The walk took us from the Hollingworth Lake visitor center out towards Lydgate, up the 'Roman Road' of Blackstone Edge, passing the 'Aiggin Stone', which was considered to be a medieval guide stone for travelers. We stopped near the summit of Blackstone Edge for lunch and the more adventurous members of the group climbed up to the trig point, which was in an awkward place perched on top of one of the many outcropping gritstone boulders.

Due to time and weather we didn't take the longer route back to the lake; which would have taken us on part of the Pennine Way across the M62 Bridge. However this gave us time when we got back to enjoy a little refreshment sitting outside in the sun at the Wine Press.

20-21 Hut Weekend.

The chapel was reasonably full this weekend and the weather provided some proper winter conditions with a lot of hail showers and a decent covering of snow above 500 meters. A group of nine, including two prospective members started up Elidir Fawr from Nant Peris and continued round to take in Y Garn before descending towards Llyn Y Cwn. At this point the party split with the majority deciding to descend back down to Nant



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Peris. However three decided to continue over the Glyders and then descending via Bwlch Tryfan to arrive at Ogwen cottage in the dark. Given the conditions and the time of year this is what you could describe as full mountain day!

I did Moel Siabod via the south East Ridge, a route I have done numerous times but never in proper winter conditions. The scramble is very interesting with snow on the ground and sitting having a brew in the summit shelter in near without conditions is most enjoyable.

Dave Gray travelled out on Saturday morning doing both Arenig Fawr and Moel Llynfant on the way.

Unfortunately Sunday was a terrible day with very high winds and almost continuous rain so most people simply headed back home.

Committee News

The next committee meeting is provisionally scheduled for Tuesday 31st March.

The Secretary has devised a booking system for the seven available bunks reserved for GMC members for when there is an external booking for the Chapel. Details will be circulated shortly.

Other News

22 February. Joyce Bernard and Mike McEneaney got married. On behalf of the club I wish to extend our congratulations and best wishes to both.

Chairman's Thoughts

As I write this month's newsletter we are now into March, the month which signals the end of the club year with the Annual General Meeting scheduled for Tuesday 17th March and the Annual Dinner the following Saturday. Notice has already gone out for both of these events and the agenda for the AGM (along with briefing papers) will follow very shortly. I would urge members to attend this meeting if they can or if they are not able to do so then to use your emails votes. There are a number of important issues to resolve, not least the proposed changes to our constitution, and it is important that as many members as possible are involved in the decisions facing the club.

March is also the month that signals the end of winter and the official move to British Summer time at the end of the month. As I sit writing this with high winds and rain battering the window



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it is hard to imagine spring. It has perhaps not been a particularly hard winter in comparison with recent years and yet it has been a somewhat frustrating one. It has promised much but, for me at least, it has not delivered. I have travelled in hope up to Snowdonia expecting days in the hills in full winter conditions only to be disappointed as the weather conditions have changed overnight and high winds and rain have chased the snow away. Indeed high winds seem to have been the one constant factor so far this winter. I believe there has been a lot of snow in Scotland but the winds have made getting out and enjoying it rather difficult. We have already seen some fatalities in the Scottish hills but thankfully nothing like the toll in recent years and I don't have enough information to say wither or not the high winds have been a factor in these cases but one suspects it probably did.

Nonetheless there are signs that spring is on the way. The days are getting noticeably longer and as I drove up to Capel Curig for the last club weekend I saw my first lambs out in the fields near Llangollen. Always a welcome sight!

My recommendation this month is another website. I know that many members use a variety of electronic devices these days when navigating and indeed there are numerous apps available for smart phones which are certainly worth checking out. However, call me old fashioned but I am still a great advocate of maps. Indeed no matter how good electronic devices become I would never go out on the hills without a map. I like pouring over maps and planning days out or looking for alternative approaches to favorite routes. I also like to collect old maps, Bartholomew's revised half-inch contoured maps mounted on cloth are particular favorites. So in my view maps are an extremely valuable resource. Therefore the site I am recommending is dash4it.co.uk a site where you can buy maps, and indeed much more, at very competitive prices. The site has both Ordnance Survey and Harvey maps for the UK as well as overseas maps for many regions of the globe. So no matter where you intend going it is worth a visit.

Happy browsing!!

Pete