



Promoting Interest in Mountain Activities

The Gwydyr Monthly Newsletter October 2015

Hello and welcome to the October edition of the monthly newsletter.

What's On This Month

3 Saturday Walk Wenlock Edge (Pete Mann)

10 Saturday Walk Macclesfield Forest Hills (Mark Barley)

16-17 Hut Weekend

31 Saturday Walk Bowland (Janet Coates)

Future Attractions!

November

06-07 Hut Weekend Bonfire Party

21 Saturday Walk Etherow & Werneth Low Parks (Mark Barley)

December

04-05 Hut Weekend

21-03 Hut: Christmas/New Year Meet



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Recent Activity

August

28-31 The Bellingham Bash.

Heather Bliss reports that the Bellingham Bash, Northumberland, bank holiday weekend was attended by Les, Janet Coates, Roger and Judy, Dave, Reg, Bob and myself and Rosie the dog. We had extremely good weather and few to no midges. We even managed early evening aperitifs outside! Good walks were done with fabulous views to the Border. Good fishing for Reg and Bob, historical sites visited and the obligatory Bellingham show attended (sadly no terrier racing this year but the hunt relay made up for it!). Altogether an excellent weekend!

September

05-12 French Alps Week (Anna Roberts)

I have not received a specific report of this meet but I understand that all had a great time with lots of walks completed as well as other activities including several members taking to the sky paragliding on the last day.

11-12 Lleyn Peinsula Camping (Dave Gray)

Dave reports that six members attended this meet based at Penrallt campsite near Tudweiliog. We had stormy nights but good, sunny days and enjoyed fine coastal clifftop walking and swimming in the sea at Porth Colmon. Walks done included Penrallt – Porth Colmon and Penrallt Porth Towyn Natural Arch on the coastal path, a coastal circuit of Mynydd Mawr at the end of the peninsula opposite Bardsey. On Monday Ronnie and I did Carn Fadryn, ‘the last hill in Snowdonia’ that commands magnificent views. The weather was so clear that we could clearly see Wicklow in the Irish Republic most of the time. From Tuesday I stayed on pending the hut weekend and did solo walks on the new section of coast path Porth-Or to Porth Widlin, around Nfyn Bay, at Borth y Gest and finally around Afon Dwyfor near Criccieth.

Also last Wednesday (23/9/15) Derek Burrows, his dog Jess and Dave did a pleasant, sunny circuit of Bryn Alyn near Llanferres.

18-19 Hut Weekend

I travelled up to the Chapel on Thursday 17 hoping to get an extra days walking. It was pretty damp and miserable on Friday morning, however it cleared up around midday and I enjoyed a leisurely stroll around Llyn Crafnant, Llyn Geirionydd and



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Llyn Bychan with a stop for coffee and Bara Brith at the café at Crafnant where I sat outside in glorious sunshine and watched swallows feeding over the Llyn.

Saturday was a lovely day and all took advantage of the good weather. Dave Gray walked from the Chapel and did the nameless Peak and Y Foel Groch returning via Cwm Tryfan and the old road. Jane Webster and Fiona Langton did Foel Gron, Foel Goch and Moel Eilio. Lindsey Fooks was on the Carneddai and did Pen yr Ole Wen, Carnedd Daydd, Carnedd Llywelyn before descending fog forced a retreat. Geoff Brierley, Anna Roberts and her Friend Lucky along with Neil Metcalf did Moel Siabod via the east ridge. Reg Cromer was fishing near Betws-y-Coed. I did a walk from the chapel over to Dolwyddelan and the Lledr valley. Andy Odger and Jo were out for the day and did Brisly Ridge, the Glyders and back to Ogwen via the Devil's Staircase. David Lane-Joynt and John, a prospective member, went climbing on the East face of Tryfan and did a number of routes including Grooved Arête.

On Sunday the weather was not so good so Fiona Langton, Jane Webster and I did a circuit of Plas y Brenin, Capel Curig and the Ugly House where we indulged in coffee and cake. Dave Gray walked over to Dolwyddelan and I am not too sure what the others did!!

25-28 CLM

Janet Coates has submitted the following report of this meet.

The CLM meet was held at Pinecroft Lodges, located on the outskirts of Ingleton where the group of 26 stayed in 5 well-appointed wooden lodges.

Friday 25th - Crummack Dale and the Norber Erratics

Laura & Mark Barley, Reg Cromer, Helen & Glenn Grant, Janet & Chris Harris, Jane Webster and Jan Coates met at Clapham and walked up Long Lane to Sulber Gate, across the limestone pavements of Thieves Moss to Beggar's Stile, then down through Crummack Dale to view the fascinating Norber Erratics, standing on their pedestals of limestone. On returning to Clapham complaints were made about the cost of a pint of Peroni lager at £5.60 at the New Inn.

Saturday 26th - Twisleton Scars and Ingleborough

22 of the group, including Sue Taylor, Ange Price, Milly Wright, Helen Brady, Bryan & Mike Gilbert, Margie Blakeborough & Graham James, Dave Gray, Adele & Adrian, Katie Harris & James and the 9 above, walked through Ingleton, onto Oddies Lane and then across Twisleton Scar with views of the Ingleborough plateau and summit across the valley and more distant views of the Ribbleshead Viaduct. We dropped down to Chapel Beck and Chapel-le-Dale and then took the footpath across Souther Scales to ascend the steep slopes to the stone crossed wall shelter and the summit of Ingleborough. We then descended towards Ingleton by Fell Lane and crossed into fields where 20 fearless GMC members faced down the biggest and most ferocious bull in Yorkshire. An enjoyable walk of 12 miles with 2,400ft of ascent.



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Ribblehead Viaduct



Ingleborough from Twisleton Scar



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Pothole on Twisleton Scar

Meanwhile Lin & Paul Jensen took a more gradual approach to Ingleborough, ascending from Newby.

Saturday evening was the famous Safari Supper, each course of nibbles, starters, mains, puddings and cheese & port being served in a different lodge.

During the evening congratulations were offered to Laura Barley who has been awarded an M.B.E. for services to the Ceramics Industry in her role of Chief Executive of the British Ceramics Federation.

Sunday 27th

On a beautiful sunny autumn day 5 smaller groups went to separate destinations.

Janet & Chris, Katie & James, Helen & Glenn, Adele & Adrian & Jan walked from Ingleton to Rowten Pot along Turbary Road above Kingsdale, and on returning were delighted to find that the ice-cream van situated below Twisleton Scar was still serving. A pub visit in Ingleton then back to the lodges to eat the left-overs from the previous evening's supper. A walk of 12 miles and 1,200 ft ascent.

Mike, Helen and Bryan did the waterfalls walk to Thornton Force via Wackenburgh Hill.

David Lane Joynt, Mark & Laura Barley and Dave Gray had a very pleasant and quiet ascent of Fountains Fell (668m) from Malham Tarn, about 9 miles with good views of the 3 Peaks and E to Buckden Pike and Great Whernside.

Lin & Paul walked to Sulber Gate, Crummack Dale and the Norber Stones

Angela, Hew, Jane and Milly walked at Malham.



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Monday 28th

Mike and Bryan did the second waterfalls walk to Beezley Falls returning via White Scars. David Lane Joynt, Mark & Laura and Dave did a short ascent of Clougha Pike in Bowland, from Dolphinholme Tower, about 6 miles, beautifully sunny with again great views of the 3 Peaks and all the hills around Morecambe Bay.

We all must thank Sue Taylor and especially Lin Jensen for the successful CLM meets over the years. Lin has now decided not to continue arranging these meets so hopefully a patient and tolerant GMC member will step forward to take on this task.

Other Activity

Pete Smedley has been doing some coastal walks on the Isle of Man. I don't have specific details or dates – sorry Pete.

Committee News

The next committee meeting has been provisionally scheduled for 6th October.

The membership Secretary, Kevin McEvoy, has produced some A4 sized posters and will display these at appropriate sites in order to attract new members.

Other News

The slide shows that were so successful last winter will be re-introduced this year. Gail Smith has suggested a “what I did on my holiday” theme with members sharing up to 10 photographs of what they have been doing recently.

Lindsey Fooks has volunteered to coordinate the next meets list and has already circulated an email asking for ideas for meets, day walks or events. Please send any ideas you may have directly to Lindsey.

Scottish Natural Heritage has revamped the website Heading for the Scottish Hills. The website is designed to help hillwalkers plan their routes to reduce the chance of disturbing stalking during the stag stalking season (1st July to 20th October). SNH has redeveloped the site taking on board comments from a wise selection of hill users and land managers. The new service covers more hill areas and even includes information on specific hills within any given area. The service is now accessible from mobiles and tablets so should be easier to use when away from home. The Heading for the Scottish Hills website can be found at www.outdooraccess-scotland.com/hftsh.



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Chairman's Thoughts

Autumn officially began on the 1st September and, in keeping with the rather strange weather we have experienced this year, during the last two weeks the conditions have been exceptional. It has been excellent weather for getting out and about in the hills, warm, sunny and dry with just the occasional hint of colour on the trees. In true autumnal mode the nights have been rather cool and the mornings misty, however this has tended to burn off fairly quickly. The clear sky at night has provided some fine opportunities for star gazing. The walk from the Chapel to the Tyn y Coed has afforded great chances to check out the night sky!! Around the 28th we even had the rare opportunity to see a blood red moon, something that only happens about every 30 years or so. The weather is forecast to continue for the foreseeable future so I do hope that you are able to enjoy this fine spell before it breaks.

This time of year is when our thoughts turn to the meets programme for next year. You will have seen emails from Lindsey Fooks asking for suggestions for meets, events or day walks. I would urge as many of you as possible to respond to Lindsey and volunteer to organize a meet, a day walk or suggest some sort of event, perhaps something the club hasn't done before or for a while. The Sandstone Trail in one day which Chris Harris organized in the summer is an excellent example of something different. Lindsey or any member of the committee will welcome any ideas you may have. This is an excellent opportunity for as many members as possible to have an input and shape the look of our meets list.

The book choice this month was suggested to me by Dave Gray. It is *Mountain Bothies: Celebrating 50 years of the MBA*, MBA publishing, 2015. In case you are not aware of what the MBA is or its work. It is the Mountain Bothies Association, a voluntary sector organization which was founded in 1965. The ethos of the MBA is 'to maintain simple shelters in remote country for the use and benefit of all who love wild and lonely places'. In my opinion they have certainly achieved this. They have over 100 bothies under their care mainly in Scotland but also with some in England and Wales. These are normally old buildings, cottages, farm buildings which with the agreement with the landowners have been restored and are now maintained as open shelters for anyone to use. I know that many in the club have used them, if you have never experienced a bothy trip then I wholeheartedly recommend that you do so. I personally would recommend A Chuil in Glen Dessary, Culra near Ben Alder (currently closed for refurbishment) and Sheneval to the west of An Teallach. I used this as a base for three nights when I did the Fisherfield Six with some friends from Sheffield, unfortunately it was summer and some Germans arrived and opened all the windows because it was hot only to be savagely attacked by midges during the night. They left early the next morning!! Bothies have proven to be life savers on occasion and they make going in to remote areas a real pleasure particularly in winter. They are extremely useful for those of you who are munro bagging.



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This is an excellent book, full of stories and anecdotes about the MBA from before its foundation in 1965 right up to the present day. It is divided into four sections rather than chapters, with each section dealing with a particular theme. This is a book you can dip into or read a section at a time. It is only £10.00 with all proceeds going to support the work of the MBA. It would be an ideal companion on a bothy trip! The book can be ordered from www.mountainbothies.org.uk, where you can also find out more about the MBA and its work.

Pete