



# The Gwydyr Monthly Newsletter

## January 2016

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

### Future Meets

16 February	Tuesday Evening Talk – The Bolivian High Mountains (Jim Metcalf)
21 February	Sunday Walk: South Clwyds/Bryn Alyn (Lindsey Fooks)
26-27 February	Hut Weekend

In addition we plan to meet up at the climbing wall on Tuesday evenings. This will be either at Awesome Walls in Liverpool or the Boardroom in Queensferry. Contact David Lane-Joynt for details on this.

### Last Month

#### Saturday Walk on 9 January - Llangollen by Dave Gray

There were 9 of us on this trip - Helen Avison, Milly, Dave Antrobus, Dave Chadwick, Ray, John Simpson, Chris Harris and Paul Sinclair plus myself. Dave Chadwick came along to the meet by bike and train.



We were lucky to get a 'weather window' of bright sunny conditions for most of the walk, and it stayed dry till 45 minutes before the end which must be a record for winter 2015/16!

We went from Berwyn Station over Moels Gamelin, y Gaer and Morfydd and then back down by Cymmo and Llantisilio. Velvet Hill got missed out of the grounds of time and that the ground under it would most likely be flooded, which it was.

Not only did we see the sun (!) we also saw intermittent views of distant snowy peaks - Arenig Fawr and the main Berwyn ridge, and also got good views east to Eglwyseg Crags and down to a very full River Dee.

Per Dave Chadwick's GPS this was 9.1 miles and 3,244 feet of ascent in the day, so a fair bit of up and down.

## What happened Afterwards In The Pub by Chris Harris

After a fine January walk at Llangollen led by Dave Gray it was decided that we should partake of the off-the-hill pint in the old favourite, the Bridge Inn at Pontblyddyn.



I was the first to arrive with prospective member Paul. As I walked up to the bar I remarked that the log fire was not roaring away as usual. “You don’t have to stay” replied mine host, a large man with a countenance that would make Jack Dee look happy. Quickly I hit back with “Ah, a welcome in the hills but not in the pub”. Then I said in a loud aside to Paul “Last time I was hear there was a very nice lady behind the bar”. Paul was looking a little worried and said “stop digging”.

So I decided to change the subject. The choice on the bar was Black Sheep or Welsh Gold so I asked what the Welsh Gold was like. “It’s shite” came the reply, “I thought I’d put it on just to see if I could get rid of it” but, then to our surprise, he put a large taster on the bar. Having approved the taster we ordered 2 pints and I tried to regain some ground by saying how tasty it was but the choice was difficult as I actually rather liked Black Sheep, only to be greeted by snorts and sniggers by the 4 gentlemen on my left at the bar. Then one of them said loudly to anyone listening, “what would you do with 50 odd million” (the lotto rollover was a big one that day). I decided, time to go on the offensive again, and said “I’d buy this pub and sack the barman”. Mine host said “well you’d have to sack me and I wouldn’t sell it to you in the first place”. Paul suggested we sit down so took our beer and went to sit round the corner out of sight of the bar but I decided to give it one last shot saying, “You think there’s only two of us but there’s another 10 coming!”

The rest of the group joined us a few minutes later and then Milly got the remains of her lunch out of her bag and started to eat her food. Just as I began pleading with Milly not to eat in the pub the barman arrived at the next table with 2 plates of food, glancing sideways at our group. A few minutes later he delivered pots of tea to our table to those that had ordered them. Then a short while later he appeared with two large bowls of chips. “Who ordered these?” we asked. “They’re on the house, I thought as you were eating your own sandwiches you might like some chips to go with them” came the totally unexpected reply.

I might add that I was not the only person to trip over my tongue. Dave Gray, presumably thinking he recognised a familiar accent, asked the barman where he came from only to be told “I came down the stairs, I live up there”

We stayed for a second pint!

## Skiing in the French Alps by Helen Grant

We recently took our annual trip to French Alps to ski in the three valleys area staying in the village of Courchevel Moriond. It took us 2 plus days to drive over with stops on route in Reims and Annecy. We were very lucky It started snowing when we arrived and hardly stopped. It was still snowing when we left and the snow chains came in very handy to leave the resort safely.

The result of all the snow was perfect powder skiing most of the time although we did have one day of rain which made the snow really claggy for skiing



.We did do some winter walking while we were there through the local Forest down to a frozen lake at La Rosiere( see pic below)

We also experienced Russian Christmas on 6 January as the higher resort is popular with Russian visitors. This resulted in a free vin chard /hot chocolate and free firework display which was impressive.

The journey home took us 2 long days but it was well worth It

### **Snowdonia in Winter Conditions by Melinda Kinsman**

Melinda was out at the hut and caught the best of the winter conditions. The photos below are from her Facebook site



## Burns Night Meet

The annual Burn's Night event was a great success. Sadly Anna had a bad back and had to hand over to the "Z" team of Geoff, Kevin and David to look after the catering (thanks Geoff for that)

During the day most people got out for a walk, although it got very damp towards the end



In the evening we were treated to a "gourmet" meal of Kev's special mushroom soup, haggis neaps and tatties with whisky sauce by DLJ and raspberry cranachan by Geoff, together with a selection of malt whiskies. We were entertained by various poems and songs, with Dave Gray being in particularly good form (his speciality is an enthusiastic rendition of his own work of the Viking Raider, complete with historically accurate Anglo Saxon details). Not a lot of hill walking was done on Sunday. It was also very nice to see various people who only get out occasionally, with Brenda Turnbull, and also Jenny Davies with guest Stuart.



The catering "z" team



Whatever Kev said, everybody enjoyed it

## Tuesday Evenings at Awesome Walls indoor climbing centre by David Lane-Joynt



Melinda Kinsman

For the last two Tuesdays of the month, some of us have been to Awesome Walls in Liverpool before going on to the Stork later. We are going to try and make this a regular event, and perhaps alternate between Awesome Walls and the Boardroom in Queensferry.

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>, we had 9 people climbing. Apart from myself and Gail Smith, there were Jane Webster, Helen Grant, Melinda Kinsman, John Simpson and Phil Don. Brenda Turnbull brought along her son Charlie, and we also had prospective member Richard Smith. Charlie showed us the way, getting up routes with embarrassing ease, but everybody else seemed to enjoy themselves, and Jane rediscovered her climbing “mojo”.

Anyone else is welcome to join us, and you do not need any previous experience to give it a go. There are enough experienced members to show you what to do, and to ensure that you are safely belayed at all times.



Jane about to belay Helen Grant



Charlie

## Chairman's Thoughts by Geoff Brierley



As we find ourselves in a new calendar year we look to fulfilling aspirations both on and off the hill. Equally the club and your committee are starting preparations for the new club year and all that entails, from preparing the AGM to giving thought to what the next year will look like.

I've been incredibly lucky to hold the office of GMC Chair for the last few months, this has been a privilege for me as I feel that any committee office is a chance not only to give something back to the club, but also to develop as a person, indeed my time as chair has brought me into areas of the clubs life that I normally would have less experience of.

I do want to thank all those members who have been in touch (for whatever reason) for your thoughts and support. It's meant a lot. I should also thank the committee who have been more than supportive – whoever becomes our new chair in March will have an easier job as a result, no matter who else serves in the committee positions.

Do please consider the chance of a committee position, whether in this or in future years, it's tremendously rewarding and there are a choice of positions which offer various levels of involvement.