

THE GWYDYR NO. 8 (JULY)

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GWYDYR MOUNTAIN CLUB

What a difference a month makes, it seems that for the past three weeks it has rained almost every day though there have been the occasional good days. St Swithin has a lot to answer for.....

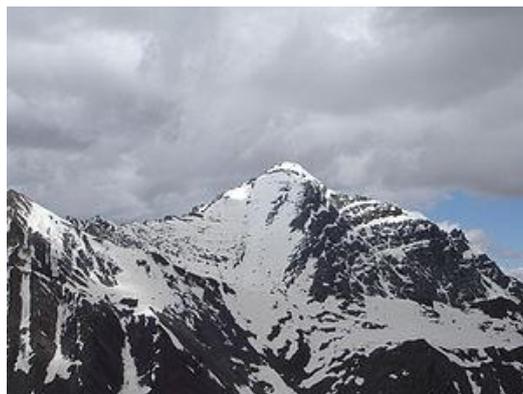
I must offer my apologies for the shortness of this month's newsletter as I've been away a lot and not been down to the pub on a Tuesday evening to gather the necessary information on what you've all been up to.

There was a walk on Thursday 8th July on the Wirral ably organised, as always, by Mike Mc however I have no idea who went or what the weather was like as I was away.

Next up was the 'summer' barbecue at Nuala's which went well with Richard and Melinda climbing a rather damp Cyfrwy Arete on Cadair Idris while the remainder went for a low level walk. On the Sunday a windy day was spent on the beach with some swimming and general larking about with the youngsters.

Dave Gray et al went up Striding Edge at the beginning of the month while on Adrian's Patterdale meet .

Andy Chapman has been in the Ladakh region of the Himalaya again on Stog Kangri, on the 20th July he went up the highest road in the world to 5350m before dropping down to Leh at a mere 3500m where they will commence the walk in to the mountain. Andy said that Delhi was incredibly hot and the whole team were glad to leave the plains and gain some height where the air is cooler and life more pleasant. Here's hoping Andy and his clients will make the summit.



Stog Kangri (6137m)

Andy is due back on the 2nd August though leaves again on the 7th for Kilimanjaro – a hard life for some !

Phil Earl and I enjoyed a couple of cracking days climbing while staying at the Chapel.

On the 12th July we awoke to a rather miserable looking day with dark clouds promising more than a shower and so we drove over to Anglesey in the hope of some sunshine and dry rock. We were not let down and climbed Lighthouse Arete on Castell Helen. Phil had not climbed on a sea cliff before and we found the abseil down rather exciting, especially so given the poor state of the rope we found in place. It's a lovely route, quite easy for the grade and very 'atmospheric' with a good swell beneath us and blue skies above. As the day wore on the weather got better and a short walk saw us descending the horrid 'path' down to the main cliff where we climbed another VS 'Imitator' which dropped us, rather conveniently, at the foot of 'Bezel' a tougher VS on the Upper Tier but one that went easily enough.

The next day saw us heading up that 'god awful' Dam access road in the Carneddau en route to a delightful little cliff 'Carreg Mianog'. We managed four routes including 'Cracked Arete' and 'Bicep's Wall' before the rain fell in earnest soaking us on the short walk out, a great short day that left us feeling that we had wrung the most out of the day.

An attempt was made to climb on Anglesey again the following day but the weather refused to play ball and we merely walked over to Wen Slab to look at the classic line of 'A Dream of White Horses' before a seriously heavy shower soaked us to the core and gave us no option but to go home.



Phil on Lighthouse Arete



Phil at the top of Bezel



Phil on main pitch of Imitator

Adrian Dolan came out to the Chapel for the night intending to climb Moel Siabod but due to the foul weather he failed to find the ridge !!

Keith Colwell had this to say about a day in the Glyders on the 17th July.....

Phil dropped me at near Ogwen. They (Allan, Andy and Phil) scooted round to Moelwyns I planned for Seniors Ridge and back over Glyders to Capel. Despite forecast, weather was fine: cloudy bright and windy, which decreased as the day progressed. I shot up to Llyn Bochlywd, up the Gribin to the Football Pitch where there's a thin path off right which traverses nicely into Nameless Cwm. Of course

there's water lapping everywhere and the quartzly blocks at the start of Seniors ridge were running with the darned liquid so I changed my mind and decided to traverse across above the Slabs and ascend the Devil's Kitchen path. The way from the foot of Seniors is interesting. When I looked back up what I'd descended looked like a runnel of vertical grass but its not a bad way actually if like me you havent previously explored that way. Well that was the interesting stuff out of the way. Up those rock steps and the eroded path onto Glyder Fawr. Saw Skylarks, Wheatears, Stonechats, half-chats, Duke of Edinburgh Gold party and two pole dancers -- sorry, *Polish* dancers, who promised to meet me later in the Tyn y. Lying sods. There was no sign of them. . .

While Keith was walking we went to climb 'Slack' in the Moelwyns where I managed to find a screw-gate krab and a 'dropped' copy of the latest Meirionnydd guide which I've left in the Chapel bookcase. We then went to 'The Blocks' by Plas Y Brenin and climbed a couple more routes including 'Ginnel Wall' which is a great route though still painful for my finger – must get it sorted !

Next up was Dave Grays popular Dent camping weekend where he climbed Agill Pike and Whernside. Keith Colwell also got out and walked a good section of the Sandstone Trail.



Phil Earl and Andy Odger on Slack



Phil leading Slack in Moelwyns

The Chapel weekend saw Dave Gray, Ronnie Davis and prospective new member Matt walking over to Dolwydellan and Moel Penanmen (I think !) while Andy Odger and I went to Tremadog in damp conditions to climb 'Boo Boo Left Hand' and 'Christmas Curry'. On the latter route we had to endure very long delays as a party of three in front of us were so slow and eventually failed on the route. They abseiled off leaving us with little option but to finish

in the rain. After nearly **FOUR** hours we were mightily relieved to be back down and a much needed pint in the Tyn Y Coed rounded off a good day.

Sunday dawned grey (again) and so the walkers went up to Llyn Crafnant while Phil Earl, Andy Odger and I went to the, ever reliable, Moelwyns. Andy went for a walk up Moelwyn Mawr and the quarries while Phil and I squeezed in three routes in often wet condition (Kirkus Direct, Orange Outang & Block) before heading back to the Chapel to collect our stuff and home.

FORTHCOMING MEETS:

MEETS PROGRAMME	
JULY 2010	
31-01	HUT Weekend
AUGUST 2010	
05	Thur Walk - Wildboarclough- Mike McEneany
20-21	Tal-y-Llyn Camping Trip - Ray Baines
27-30	BH Trefin Independent Youth Hostel - Dave Gray
SEPTEMBER 2010	
02	Thur Walk - Wat's Dyke Way - Mike McEneany
03-04	Flyde Folk Festival Camping (Graham Jones)
10-11	HUT Weekend
18	Sat - Gradbach - Mark Barley
24-26	Canal Trip (3 Days) Sue Taylor

2011 MEETS LIST – IMPORTANT

We are in the process of putting together a meets list for next year which we want to get out by the end of October at the very latest.

We **need your help** so please email either myself or Dave Gray if you wish to organise something. It can be a simple day walk or climb, a weekend or a longer trip but we need you to do something so have a think, dig out those old OS maps of places you haven't been to for years and see what you can do.