



View from the Roaches

The Gwydyr Mountain Club Newsletter.

September 2022

Edited: Chris Harris

Coming soon: (details on meets list on GMC website)

8-9 October Emergency GMC First Aid course at the Chapel- Bill Morrison

There are still a few places left for the above course. This training has been arranged by the club exclusively for the membership and is offered at a greatly subsidised price.

The course leader is Allan Shaw, an experienced mountain leader and first aid trainer. He comes highly recommended by both Christy Miles and Andy Chapman. This is the same course that Allan delivers at Plas y Brenin so expect the quality to be high.

The cost to members is only £40 for the two-day course - a huge discount on the commercial rate. If you are interested in attending, please email the Membership Secretary at membership@gwydyrmc.org.uk.

Training Grants

Can I also remind members that **training grants** are available for mountaineering related training and skills acquisition. The object of this scheme is to help members develop their outdoor skills via formal training, coaching and practical instruction. You can apply for a grant via the application form in the members section of the website. There you will also find guidance notes for the scheme. If you have any queries please get in touch with the Membership Secretary. These funds are there to help all members.

14-16 October Hut Weekend: Work Weekend - Fiona Langton

14-16 October Camping Barn: St.John's in the Vale - Barbara Reynolds

20 October Thursday Walk: Denbigh to Rhuddlan Castles - Roger Hughes

22-23 October Mountain Skills Training weekend - Bill Morrison

4-6 November Hut Weekend: Bonfire Party - Kevin McEvoy

I was asked to make an addition to the article about the 50th Anniversary of the chapel purchase in last month's Newsletter:

Founder Member Roger Hughes, Mark Barley & Janet Coates made a gentle ascent of Moel Siabod on the Saturday of the 50th Anniversary weekend. I'm not sure how many other ascents of Siabod Roger has made in his 55 years as a member.

Articles this Month:

- 1) Tree felling at the chapel - article by Chris Harris**
- 2) Sychnant pass walk, Thursday 15th September - article by Chris Harris**
- 3) The Roaches, Saturday walk, 23rd September - article by Chris Harris**

1) Tree felling at the chapel - by Chris Harris



Before

Friday the 1st of September 2022 was a historic day at the chapel. The two much loved/hated ash trees at the entrance to the carpark were felled. They are victims of Ash Dieback, whilst not too badly affected, the proximity of the power lines leading to the chapel meant that they needed to be disconnected before work could be done. I had managed to establish that the trees were actually not on our land but they were on the bridleway which has been adopted by Conwy C.C.. I contacted Ancaster estates to work out who was responsible for their care. They accepted responsibility and also agreed to fell the two trees outside the kitchen, by the stream, as they were overhanging the chapel roof (I pointed out that one of Ancaster's trees had already damaged the toilet block). The tree at the end of the car park near the stream was badly affected by Ash Dieback and although it was definitely on our land Ancaster said they would take that down. A little further downstream on Ancaster land there was another badly diseased ash tree which was felled.



After

Eight am on the day, the Manweb, the tree surgeons, John Driver and I were on site.

John has been liaising with Rhydian Roberts, the Snowdonia Park Authority's Woodlands Officer, and needed to ensure that we were complying with Park regulations. He also was useful with technical terms such as "brash" and "Husqy".

Manweb oversaw sight safety as people numbers had to be counted and arrivals and departures accounted for. Power to the chapel was quickly disconnected.

Friday saw the removal of the two trees at the carpark entrance



The rest of the trees took until 7.30pm on the Monday to come down. Fortunately John stayed over the weekend and beyond as there was a lot of clearing of timber, he also took the opportunity to tidy the rest of the chapel garden.

There is still the issue of the stumps at the entrance to the carpark. One can be removed with a stump grinder, the other is embedded in stone so needs a JCB to pull it out. John is overseeing this operation. We should then have a much wider carpark entrance and hopefully a bit of extra parking space.

Rhydian has said that he would like to see native species planted to replace the felled trees, eg Oak, ash beech, sycamore, birch, cherry, hazel, alder, rowan, hawthorn and holly.

*It took 30 minutes to slice this down to the base.
But then the hard work starts.*

2) Sychnant pass walk - article by Chris Harris

Dave Antrobus was leading and we (10) met at the Sychnant pass car park.

The walk was titled "Lost civilisations on Tal y Fan." We walked South along the Cambrian Way to the summit of Tal y Fan with a detour to see the Llangelynnin old church (pictured). The church is near Garnedd-Wen, if you look on the OS map.

The total distance was just short of 10 miles, with ascent of 2,400ft.

It's an area many of us had not walked before but is significant in that it is the bit between pass of 2 Stones and Conwy Mountain.



3) The Roaches, Saturday 24th September - by Chris Harris

A fine first lead by new member Debbie Kennard. The start was at the Wincle Brewery where there was plenty of free roadside parking and we finished at the brewery in time to enjoy samples of their fine ales.

We followed the Danevalley way then ascended to Lud's Church and followed the board walk through the woods to join the Roaches at the NW end. Walking the Roaches ridge we had views of The Peckforton Hills, and the Wrekin. Wales should have been visible but it was covered in cloud.

A good turn out of 12 with 50:50 male/female.

Just over 10 miles with 1990ft ascent.



Lud's Church