

THE GWYDYR

No. 38 Aug / Sept / Oct 2013

The monthly (ish) newsletter of the Gwydyr Mountain Club



Apologies to all for the delay in getting the newsletter out as my PC appears to have died and I've lost quite a bit of stuff ☹

Anyway here it is at last albeit in a shorter format than to what has gone before and I'm afraid that this is going to be what it's like for the foreseeable future due to constraints with my time ! One hopes though that it will still be read and contributed to by the membership. I believe it's a valuable resource which enables new prospective members to see what we are about as a club.

Also I apologise if there is any duplication from the previous newsletter but having lost all the older ones..... ☹

Thanks to Heather Bliss for the above picture and the little article below from the August bank holiday Northumberland trip :-

Bellingham Bash – August Bank Holiday 2013

Brownrigg Lodges in Northumberland had been booked again and 15 folk and 2 dogs duly arrived on 23 August. Mike and Joyce arrived first, closely followed by Janet and Les. Reg had fished and Dave

had walked prior to arrival as had Helen. Before long Millie and Andrew, Roger and Judy, Sue, Margaret and Graham made our party complete.

Saturday didn't look the best of days so the BBQ was deferred to Sunday. A large party descended on the Falstone Show and took in the delights of ram and sheep judging etc before setting out on a 9 mile walk led by Janet. Reg cycled around Kielder, Helen revisited haunts of her youth over at Bamburgh Castle and Wallington Hall; Les and Heather did the scenic route around the reservoir before finishing up at the Show to witness all the local hunt hounds being judged!

Sunday dawned and Reg again fished! Roger, Judy and Les visited Alnwick and the coast, Mille and Andrew visited Hadrian's Wall, Mike and Joyce walked up to Hareshaw Linn. Dave led the remainder of us on a local 12 mile walk, partly up the Pennine Way, down past Shitlington Crags and on to



Leadgate to return to Bellingham. It was a hot day!

BBQs were lit and food and alcoholic refreshments enjoyed in the sunshine – no midges but flying ants were present!

Monday promised to be another hot day and everyone had left by 10.30 am to either go to Beamish Museum, Cragside, Hadrian's Wall – or drive straight home!

Everyone agreed it had been a good weekend. No startling peaks or craggy outcrops – but big skies and luckily excellent weather.

The same weekend Beth and I went to Cardigan Bay, staying at the hideously expensive Camping and Caravanning Club campsite near New Quay. We managed a great day on Pumlumon and sightseeing at Devil's Bridge where we managed to see the magnificent falls for free courtesy of a dodgy barrier ☺ New Quay itself was a beautiful place where one could watch the dolphins playing in the bay from the comfort of the numerous quayside cafe's and the harbour wall.

At the beginning of September we had the club trip to the Llyn Peninsula which, despite the weather, was a great success with Dave Gray, Mike Mc & John Crosby enjoying a couple of good coastal walks while Beth and I collected driftwood and visited the amazing Nant Gwrtheyrn which really really should be visited by everyone. Google it and you'll get the picture.....

We've not been down to the Stork as much of late and so Dave Gray has manfully took over the role during 'OB' and has emailed me the following notes. Thanks Dave 😊

This one is from the end of August.....

Hut weekend – various groups did Siabod, Glyderau section of 14 Peaks, Conwy Mountain, Pen yr Ole Wen. People out include Geoff, Hew, John Simpson, David the music man, Andy Odger.

Mike Mc and John Crosby did the Llanfairfechan – Conwy section of the coast path last Friday

This was from the middle of September.....

Hut meet – e.g. Carneddau, Crib Goch, Climbing

Dolomites – Andy O, Kev and Vanda, John Austin – via Ferrata and walking in fine weather.

Again, from late September.....

1. Moel y Parc meet – David Edwards stood in for Mike Mc to make this happen, we had 5 people who did some 13 miles and 3,400' of ascent starting at Pandy Cottage over Pen y Cloddiau and Moel Arthur. They met Geoff Brierley on one of his 14 Peaks training runs. Katie Harris has also been in training per Chris H!

2. Mike Mc, Bryan Gilbert and Paul Russel did a number of walks in the Somme valley battlefield area in France, the scenery is like the South Downs and is enlivened by unexploded ordnance. They also visited war cemeteries including the grave of one of Bryan's relatives killed in battle.

3. Dave Gray and Nuala did a "tour du Snowden" with their friends from Oaklands, they did Yr Aran and Snowdon itself on which they had a magnificent cloud sea with the peaks standing like rocky islands, plus numerous Brocken spectres.

4. Mike and Lin Gavin were doing coastal walking in Pembrokeshire

The following week Dave sent me this, Chris Harris also sent me an article on the CLM which I will include later on in this newsletter:-

1. CLM – we had 20 people enjoying really good accommodation and great weather in Troutbeck for this meet organised by Lin Jensen and Sue Taylor. Hill walks included Yoke, Ill Bell, Froswick, High Street, Stony Cove Pike, Wansfell Pike, Sallows.

2. Geoff had a walk on the Glyders and Allan and Beth climbed on the slate quarries above Llanberis and went Blackberry picking for Allan's Jam which is delicious by all accounts 😊

3. Carol and her niece Kirsty did the Moel Eilio walk which she much enjoyed

4. Mike Davies did the new circular walk on Wirral and included in Parkgate that took his mileage up to 20 miles. Mike also said that the map provided by Wirral Borough Council is worse than useless.....

And finally.....

1. Andy Chapman was climbing Ordinary Route on Idwal slabs with a client who shouted up that his leg was slipping. Andy held the rope tight and shouted down to his client that he was safe. What Andy didn't know, though his client did, was that his leg was not slipping off a hold but that his false leg had become detached and was at that moment descending the slabs quicker than they had ascended. One assumes that the recovery of the leg provided much mirth and once retrieved proved none the worse for wear and thankfully no-one was injured ☺

2. Dave, Sue and Les out with Gourmet Trekkers. Dave and Sue did a circular walk in the Alport valley taking in the spectacular Alport Castles landslip, in good weather. We stayed at Hagg Farm base.

3. Pete Smedley – out with friends in the Dales, did a big circuit based on Hawes.

Chris Harris sent me the following from the Chairman's Luxury Meet in the Lake District – thanks once again Chris ☺

CLM at Troutbeck in The Lake District

27th – 30th September 2013

The weather was very kind to us this weekend. Friday, Saturday and Sunday were warm and sunny with amazing views. Monday a bit breezy and cloudy to start but it did clear and the sun came out later. We stayed in 4 very comfortable, 6 berth log cabins in Limefitt Park which is 10 minutes walk from Troutbeck with its two pubs, The Mortal Man and The Queen's Head



On The Friday Janet and I bagged 4 more Wainwrights: Wetherlam, Swirl Howe, Great Carrs and Grey Friar. Starting from Tilberthwaite this was one of the best walks I have done in the Lakes proving that

Wainwright bagging is not about ticking a list but seeing the best views.

← Air Crash memorial on Great Carrs. The undercarriage of a Halifax bomber which clipped the ridge in 1944. The plane went over the edge.

Saturday saw Dave take a group up onto the ridge behind Limefitt Park, taking in Yoke, Ill Bell and Froswick before descending to the valley back to Troutbeck.



Dave's party on Yoke Fell



Dave in the much discussed Marigold shorts.

The descent to Troutbeck and Limefitt Park.

I took a smaller party up the somewhat boggy Trout Beck path to the col at Threshthwaite Mouth, then up the steep climb to Stony Cove Pike. On the descent to The Kirkstone Inn we frightened some deer. After suitable refreshment at the Inn we walked effortlessly down The Struggle then continued towards Ambleside on the old track and then after a final 1000ft hike over Wansfell Pike we paused for suitable refreshment in the Mortal Man at Troutbeck.



A welcome sign at The Mortal Man socks



Graham with his little discussed Marigold socks

The Saturday Safari supper magnificently organised by Sue supplied us with the following and a bit more which I can't remember, possibly due to Heather's Cognac Pate. David's home grown sliced beans were possibly the most discussed item on the menu.

Nibbles

Olive scones

Goats cheese crostini

Lettuce with Thai dressing

Starters

Cognac Pate

parmesan and garlic stuffed mushrooms

Kedgeree

Stilton and walnut salad

Mains

Lasagna and garlic bread

Chicken baked with cherry tomatoes and new potatoes with salad

Shepherd's Pie with green beans.

Desserts



Stalag 4 was responsible for desserts, which included fruit crumble and cream, white chocolate cheesecake, affogato (coffee, ice cream and Amaretto), cheese and biscuits washed with and wine.

down
coffee
Madeira

On there number groups. Gray led assault Wansfell followed and therapy



Sunday were a of Dave an on Pike by beer retail in

Ambleside, returning via Jenkins Crag along the path overlooking Lake Windermere.

I, Janet, Glen and Helen picked off a trio of mini-Wainwrights; Sour Howes, Sallows and Troutbeck Tongue. The former two are small but there are no paths marked on the maps, fortunately most of the route had well walked paths apart from a steep descent where we had to wade through bracken. Troutbeck Tongue may be small but the views are big.

As Janet and I were leaving on the Monday morning we saw Dave Gray and the Gilberts (sounds like a 60's skiffle band!) heading for Sour Hows and Sallows, showing they still had some energy left.

I think all participants will join me in thanking Lin Jensen for organizing the excellent accommodation in a superb location and Sue Taylor for organizing the Safari supper.

Chris also sent me the following from the successful club event ‘The Welsh 3000’s’ – Ta
Chris ☺

Welsh 3000’s 29th June 2013

Sorry, no action shots.

The Finishers’ times:

Geoff Brierley 12hrs 24 mins Winner, Fastest entrant

Bryn Roberts 13hrs 30mins Winner, Veteran Trophy

Arfon Jones 13hrs 30mins

Neil Metcalfe 14 hrs

John Simpson 14 hrs

Katie Harris 14hrs 48 mins Winner, Ladies Trophy

Miles Doughty 14hrs 48 mins



Anneliese and John



The Start; Pen-y-Pass car park

Katie and Miles



Neil, John and Geoff at Nant Peris



Ogwen support area





Foel Fras – the last peak.

As always a big well done to the participants and the support teams 😊

Each year my dad and some old army cronies do a charity walk in aid of Alder Hey Children's Hospital. This year they stayed at the cottage and went for a walk up Moel Siabod. Although not a member my dad takes a keen interest in our club and reads the newsletters regularly and so I hope members don't mind me including a brief description from him of their day out 😊

The Moel Siabod Report.

"The Lonely Mountain".

We awoke in the Tan y Garth (Under the Hill) Cottage, next to the Chapel, both owned by the Gwydyr Mountain Club, situated between Betws y Coed and Capel Curig. Looking out of the windows we found the Valley covered in mist. Dressed and then out, to visit the Moel Siabod Café for a full English Breakfast for three, plus a vegetarian(Mushrooms on toast) for one. Guess who?

Returning to the Cottage we checked our 'sacks', boot's etc., and left, taking the track that runs along side the Cottage. We climb, zigzagging along the path, that if you followed it the full length, would take you to Dolwyddelan Village, keeper of the Castle, build entirely by the Welsh for the Welsh, against the Welsh, and anyone else! After reaching the highest point on the track, which is a track junction, and well away from the mist of the valley, we turned left (Westerly) heading towards the disused quarry and buildings. Walking through what is left of the old buildings, we came to an unnamed Llyn, with a footpath running along the

North edge, we joined, and it led us to the ' Old Quarry '. A Mystical place, high straight cliff formations, and caves, overlooking a black forbidding Llyn. We stopped here for a short break, half expecting a Dragon to come flying out of a cave behind the waterfall ! Leaving the Old Quarry, we climbed still upwards, and looking back could see the valleys, still hanging on to the morning mists. An eroded path takes us to Cwm y Foel while below lies Llyn y Foel, certainly the biggest of all the Llyn's we have passed. The views are captivating from here, but sure enough, the rain/mist/cloud is descending, to make our little walk more interesting, to say the least!

Beyond Llyn y Foel, we see our route to the top of Moel Siabod, the Daiar Ddu Ridge, which looks just a little bit intimidating from here. But before even contemplating this classic scramble, we have to cross the 'bog-lands' below us. Wet? yes, black oozing mud? yes, must end soon! Arriving at the base of the Ridge, you look up, and think, it is not that bad, not as foreboding as it did an hour ago. Climbing, you just pick what you think is the best route up, with loads of options to take! Oh no, the Lonely Mountain has decided with Mother Nature to make our life more interesting, by bringing the cloud level down in the form of drizzle, and rain, just enough to soak, and make nice and slippery, the rocks we are climbing, great fun, thank you!

Climbing/scrambling upwards amongst the rocks in the mist, gives you the impression the summit is almost within reach. It never usually is, but on this occasion, it was! Just ahead in the mist the Trig Point stood out. 'Jerry built ', made up of various pieces of rock, cemented together to form the Trig point column.

Mist is still all around, and not a place to hang around, we decided not to head NE over the ridge, and down the path to Capel Curig, but to return and head down the way we came up!

It turned out to be a quite ' bum slide ', due to the wet rock. Half way down Daiar Ddu Ridge the drizzle stopped, the mist lifted, and the Sun shone through the gaps in the cloud. Thank you Mother Nature, we have enjoyed your Mountain. Good going from now on, retracing our route down hill. We now had clear views of Bets y Coed, and beyond.

We stayed on the track that we had joined at the disused quarry, and walked, just short of the Bridge, at Pont Cyfyng, over the Afon Llugwy. Turned right (South) on a 'C' class road leading to Tan y Garth, and with only 400m to walk we looked forward to a nice cup of....whatever...?

We all enjoyed the walk, knowing that our reward, was the monies being collected by us all, for the Alder Hey Children's Charity. Please give what you can.

So we, Brian Joe, Mike and myself thank you all for collecting, donating, as every penny counts!

Anyway that's all I have for this newsletter but please feel free to send anything you may have for inclusion in the next one which hopefully I can get out early December.

FORTHCOMING MEETS:-

As always please contact the meets organiser if you wish to come along.

October 2013	
25-26	Lakes Camping Barn (Dave Gray)

November 2013	
01-02	Hut Weekend: Bonfire (TBA) / Friday Night Halloween (Beth+Allan)
15-16	Saturday Walk:: Winter Hill (Mark Barley)
29-30	Hut Weekend

The bonfire weekend is fully booked now and one hopes it will be a great weekend, fancy dress is optional but the having fun is compulsory ☺

SGM 5th November 2013

As notified in the Stork recently we have another SGM (sorry folks) this time in relation to the front door of the cottage which needs replacing. An email will be sent to you all shortly however this is just a reminder to say you can vote by email. We (the committee) could not decide on whether to have a solid hardwood front door or a UPVC composite with wood effect. It's up to you guy's now ☺