

End of May 2009 Bulletin.

Note from myself, Madam Chairman.

Hi everyone,

This bulletin starts with some sad news that Gill Beamer died on 31st May at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness after being ill for several months. Many of us had seen them very recently as they spent a couple of weeks on Merseyside in March, and were at the Club AGM and the Club dinner. Gill and her husband John, Life Members of the GMC, moved to their house in Torridon in 1976. Gill had been the local Post Bus driver until her retirement at the end of January. They had acquired a campervan and planned to spend their retirement travelling around the UK, but this was not to be. Our thoughts and sympathy are with John at this difficult time.

The Spring Bank Holiday weekend at the beginning of May saw Paul and I off to spend some time with Nuala, Chris and their son Patrick in Bryncrug near to Tywyn and Cader Idris. We had a great time playing in Patrick's FAB tree-house (or G&T platform when the kids are in bed) built by Chris - I even tried out the fireman's pole. The five of us then spent a good day ascending Cader Idris via the Pony Path in bright but bitter windy weather - a first ascent for Patrick, aged just 6.

Others in the Club were on Anglesey, and Mike, Tara and Geoff were at the Cottage doing a route including the north ridge of Tryfan and Bristly Ridge, Geoff in training for Offa's Dyke. Sunday saw climbing on Atlantic Slabs.

Mike's Thursday Day Walk on 7th May was well attended as usual – 11 people. They were in Ashford, near Bakewell, and the eight-mile walk was through Sheldon, Deep Dale, Monsal Dale, Little Longstone and back to Ashford.

The middle of the month saw a cycle ride out to the Hut – a mix of GMC and CTC members. Twelve people rode out in windy/showery weather although they managed to avoid most of the showers until the final section from Llanrwst when they got a good soaking. On arrival at the Hut they were very pleased to see Dave Gray who had the kettle on and the lounge warm. As if the length of that cycle ride was not enough, a few people on mountain bikes with knobbly tyres and huge backpacks joined the Marin Trail above Llanrwst and did a large section of it before recovering to the pub.

Having got soaked on the way out to the Hut it might have been a change for them to stay dry on the return ride but this was not to be, and despite sheltering in the café on the A5 from the worst of the rain they were soaked by the time they got to Betws-y-Coed. Not to worry, though, as the ten mile cycle uphill to the Sportsman's on Denbigh Moors helped to dry them out!

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The end of May Bank Holiday weekend activities included Carol & John, Al Mac, Phil and Neil doing the Moel Eilio/Moel Cynghorion group then up the Snowden Ranger and down the Llanberis (12 miles and 5000ft) on Saturday, and on Sunday Dave Cole, Neil and Al Mac did the Nantlle Ridge.

I hear whispers of people practising for the Welsh 3000s – I think this year there will be quite a few people entering. Chris Harris has been out in Snowdonia, including a day out on the Carneddau, and a day on Crib Goch and Snowdon. He is soon off the Italy, to Cinque Terre for a week of walking – good preparation for the Welsh 3000s at the end of June.

Geoff was at club on Tuesday back from his Offa's Dyke walk. It appears that he and his friend John were beset with problems from the start, and the list included hurt ankle, painful rucksack, angry locals etc. It sounds like they enjoyed the trip despite having to stop three days into their trip – a rehearsal for the next time they do it?

At the end of May 'Quarter-End' John and Christy were voted in as members of the club. Welcome to them both.

As this bulletin goes out a number of members are in Lauterbrunnen on Sue's Swiss trip. I imagine that the end of June bulletin will have tales and achievements from that trip as well as announcing the outcome of the Welsh 3000s.

Regards
Christine