

The Gwydyr Monthly Newsletter October 2014

Hello everyone and welcome to the first of what I intend to be a monthly round up of club activity.

As I have pointed out elsewhere, my intention is that the monthly newsletter will do a number of things. First of all it will highlight things that are scheduled to take place in the month ahead such as meets, day walks, social events etc. Secondly it will provide a brief roundup of recent activity across the club. Thirdly it may, where appropriate, be a means of alerting members to news items or relevant issues (or at least identify sources for these) that may arise and be of interest to members. I also hope that the newsletter will complement the biannual magazine that I mentioned in the accompanying email.

The intention is that both the monthly newsletter and the magazine will eventually be published on the new website once it is up and running. However in the meantime the newsletter will be sent by email.

As you can see this first attempt is simply a word processed document. Two main reasons for this, one is a lack of time as I have just begun a new academic year at work and this tends to be a very busy period as we welcome, and induct, a new intake of students. Secondly my lack of IT skills. I hope that the format, look and content of the newsletter will evolve as I become more proficient and begin to experiment and develop my skills.

Finally, any newsletter (or indeed other publication) depends on content. So I urge all members to consider how they may contribute to either the monthly newsletter or the magazine. Please contact me or any committee member with items or ideas for possible items. All will be gratefully received.

What's On This Month?

04 Saturday Day Walk- Corndon Hill (Pete Mann). Details have been circulated.

10-12 Wasdale Show Camping Weekend (Bryan Gilbert). Details have been circulated.

17-18 Hut Weekend.

31-01 North Lakes Camping Barn Weekend (Dave Gray). As we go to press some places are still available.

Future Attractions!

November

07-08 Bonfire Party/Barn Dance (Anna Roberts). The chapel is full although I understand a reserve list is in place. Anna has indicated that she can cater for additional people so it is still not too late provided you can find alternative accommodation.

21 Deadline for articles for the magazine. Ideally send direct to me or alternatively to any committee member.

December

13 Christmas Meal (Les Fowles). Yes I know we are only into October but these things have to be booked well in advance. Les has already circulated details so get booking!

Recent Activity

There has been a gap between this newsletter and the last one so I will try and break this down for the appropriate month. As I can't make every Tuesday night I rely up other people for information. So apologies if I have missed anything.

July

In early July Margret and Graham have been canoeing in North West Scotland and I believe they also included and ascent of Suilven, one of the iconic Scottish peaks.

Geoff Brierley had week in Chamonix but I don't have any details of what he did. Perhaps a future article Geoff?

Saturday 5th Dave Gray led a party of eight on a circuit from Llanuwchllyn south of Bala which included Aran Benllyn, Creiglyn Dyfi and Cym Ilwyd. This was a postponed day walk from earlier in the year and the weather was very good and the route afforded magnificent views.

04-05 the navigation sessions which were organised by Doug Florence proved to be a great success and those taking part learned a great deal.

The Jensens and the Ewings, using the chapel as a base, did some cycling in North Wales. Rides included a circuit of Anglesey and trails from Port Dinorwic. It is good to see that the chapel is being used for a wider variety of activities.

John Crosby has been to Dartmoor and knocked off nine tors. I don't have details of dates or indeed which tors were done. Again a potential article here John?

David Lane-Joynt has been climbing with Andy Chapman in Wales including Dyserth Castle Slab near Abergele which David describes as desperate! David has also been climbing with Gail Smith who has led a VS in the Llanberis Pass. Alas David did not name the relevant route but congratulations anyway Gail.

August

01-02 the annual BBQ weekend at Roscolyn organised by Kevin McEvoy was well attended. However the weather did not cooperate like it has done in previous years. Nonetheless a good time was had by all.

08-09 Hut weekend. Unfortunately I missed this but Dave Gray reports there was a good turnout and activities included a crossing of the Glyders, walking around Llangollen and bouldering.

Andy Odger and Kevin McEvoy had a trip to Skye where they did Pinnacle Ridge, Sgurr Nan Gillean and also walked on Waterstein Head. They also managed to climb Broad Buttress on Buchaille Etive Mor as part of the trip. I don't have dates for this trip unfortunately.

22-24 was the late summer bank holiday and we included this as an extra club meet at the chapel. The weather was mixed with bank Holiday Monday very wet. A variety of activities were undertaken including walks and some scrambling as well as lots of retail therapy and coffee stops! I went up early on Friday and managed to dodge the showers and did an ascent of Craigau Glesion from the Crafnant side. I also did Moel Siabod and a low level walk on Sunday.

I understand that Doug and Gail were in Chamonix over this bank holiday weekend and did a tour of the Dents Blanche.

29-30 Langdale Hut Meet. A group of eight members organised by DLJ had a successful weekend in the lakes with lots of good weather. Walks included the Langdale Pikes, Pike of Blisco and Loughrigg Fell. Messrs Odger, Metcalfe and McEvoy were scrambling and climbing on local crags.

Helen Brady and Bryan and Mike Gilbert were in Cornwall completing another section of the South West Coastal path from Zennen to Mullions Cove.

Dave Cole arrived back having just completed an 810 mile hike on the Pacific Coast trail in the USA over two and half months. Congratulations Dave on what sounds like an epic journey. I am sure many members would welcome more details of this trip and I really hope you can share your adventures with us with an article for the next magazine!

September

05-06 Rhinogs Camping Weekend. Dave Gray reports that this was a good meet with seven members attending. The weather was very good and most of the Rhinogs range was done and people even had time to swim at Barmouth and Harlech!

John Simpson has been active in the Lakes with what appears to be a grand tour and he ascended Broad Crag, Scafell and Scafell Pike, Great End, Catbells and Loughrigg Fell. In addition John has been to the Yorkshire Dales where he visited Malham Cove and Gordale Scar. Plenty of material for at least two articles there Simmo!

12-13 was a hut weekend plus the annual cycle meet from the Wirral to the chapel and back which is, organised by Chris Harris. 17 cyclists, which included some members and cycling friends of Chris, made the outward journey to the chapel. Their route included sections of the route taken by the Tour of Britain earlier in the month. However, I am reliably informed that these were done at a more sedate pace. Some decided to forego the return journey and instead elected to make use of motorised vehicles to get back. Nonetheless congratulations to all who took part whether doing the

whole route or only one leg. I must admit that it made an interesting change to see the chapel engulfed in lycra as opposed to fleeces. It takes all types I suppose!!

26-27 saw the annual Chairman's Luxury Meet. I observed tradition by not attending and I have as yet not received any reports or news on how this went. Perhaps a report for the next newsletter?

Committee News

As you are probably aware Kevin McEvoy has joined the committee as membership secretary and the rest of the committee look forward to working with him. Thanks to Hew for holding the fort in the meantime.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for 14th October. We will now be holding committee meetings on Tuesday nights as opposed to the usual Thursday nights. The meeting will proceed the normal weekly meet at the Stork. This change is largely for my benefit but it does have the added bonus that all, or at least most, of the committee will be available at the Stork after words.

Chairman's Thoughts

I enjoy being out in the hills at any time. However, autumn is one of my favourite seasons. This year we have enjoyed a really great spell of weather with temperatures higher than normal and better than during the official summer. However, the first signs of autumn are beginning to make themselves felt. I really like this time of year. I like crisp autumnal morning's with just a hint of frost around. We still have a reasonable amount of daylight and of course we have those glorious colours to enjoy. Some people find the autumn somewhat melancholic. I don't agree. Yes the nights are getting longer but it also gives us an opportunity to reflect back on trips or activities we have enjoyed over the previous months. In addition we can use the longer nights to begin to plan for future trips. You will have seen the email from Dave Gray and Les regarding the meets list for next year. **Now is the time to get planning.** We welcome any ideas any one may have whether it is for established meets or new ones or indeed new destinations.

I also use the longer nights of autumn and winter to catch up on my reading. Over the summer I picked up a copy of *The Living Mountain* by Nan Shepherd. This is regard as a classic and has been described by the Guardian as "The finest book ever written on nature and landscape in Britain". It is a book I have been aware of for a long time (it was first published in 1977) but never read. This is a relatively new edition published in 2011 by Canongate with a foreword by Robert Macfarlane. If you are not aware of this book the by-line is "A Celebration of the Cairngorm Mountains of Scotland". It is also unusual in that it is regarded as a classic book about landscape and one of the few written by a woman in a field which tends to be dominated by male writers. Something to look forward to as the nights draw in.

I hope to include other recommendations in subsequent newsletters and I would urge other members to do so as well.

Pete