



Mountain Activities

Promoting Interest in

The Gwydyr Monthly Newsletter December 2014

Hello everyone, welcome to the December edition of the monthly newsletter. I am sorry that this edition is out later than previous ones, pressure of work I am afraid. Thank you to all of those who provided content for the newsletter

What's On This Month?

06 Saturday Walk Clwyda-(Lindsey Fooks).

13 Christmas Meal (Les Fowles)

21-04 Hut Christmas/New Year Meet.

Future Attractions!

January

10 Saturday Walk Berwyns (Dave Gray).

13 Committee Meeting.

23-24 Burns Night (Chris & Janet Harris) details to be circulated.

31 Saturday Walk Wirral (Janet Coates).

February

7 Saturday Walk Blackstone Edge (Brenda)

20-21 Hut Weekend

28 Saturday Walk West Pennine Moors (Mark Barley)



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Recent Activity

November

07-08 Hut weekend/Bonfire Party. The chapel was full for the annual bonfire night celebrations. The weather was not great on the Saturday so most people were content with low/mid-level walks. This year the theme was a barn dance and our thanks to Anna Roberts for the idea and for providing the food as well the decorations. Thanks also to Geoff and Andy Odger and Jo for all their work and help on the night. The weather on the Saturday night was rather mixed but it did not dampen spirits nor the bonfire once it got going! All enjoyed a great night which went on well into the wee sma hours.

A special mention must go to Kevin McEvoy and his costume which was inspired to say the least!

The weather was slightly better on Sunday and after a relaxed start a mass ascent of Siabod was completed. A smaller group of Fiona Langton, Jane Webster, Neil Metcalfe and myself did a circuit of Llyn Elsi. This was the first time in over 20 years of visiting North Wales that I had done Llyn Elsi, which goes to show there are always opportunities to do something new.

14-15 Fiona and Jane were out at the cottage. Accompanied by Neil Jane completed her first traverse of Crib Goch. Given that Jane does not really like exposure, she was really elated afterword. Congratulations!

15 Saturday Walk Arnside (Janet Coates). Twelve members had a pleasant coastal and hill circuit to Silverdale in cloudy but dry conditions which afforded great views over Morecombe bay which was lit by pallid November sunshine. The group also managed to sit out in the sunshine for an off the hill pint!

18 Chris Harris did the latest on the Tuesday night presentations with a talk on the GR20 in Corsica which was well attended.

22 Saturday Walk Peak District (Mark Barley). A party of ten members walked from Erwood reservoir to Buxton via Beet Hill and a return via Grinlow and the river Goyt. The day started with showers but these soon gave way to a fine sunny day which enabled the group to enjoy the great views enhanced by autumn colours.



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28-29 Hut Weekend/ annual work weekend. Chris has already sent around an email regarding this. It was very well attended and a lot of excellent work was completed on

both properties. A special mention to Reg and his friend Bobby who had spent the previous week in the cottage doing a number of major jobs including putting a new fire in

the lounge and opening out the staircase. Excellent work guys. As I mentioned the work weekend was well attended and it was particularly gratifying to note the number of members who live out with the Wirral who made the effort to attend this weekend. In particular James, a prospective member, who drove all the way from Cornwall to help out.

Committee news

The minutes of the last committee meeting on 25th November have been circulated.

At this meeting the committee decided that the AGM will be held on Tuesday 13th March. Following the recent consultation with members, I only received a handful of replies regarding the date and timing of the AGM and all were in favour of maintaining the usual Tuesday night slot in March.

As the club Secretary has intimated the new website is now live and definitely worth a visit. The intention is to use this as one of the primary vehicles for keeping members informed of what is going on so do please visit the website on a regular basis.

Other news

The 21st of this month was the deadline for articles for the proposed new biannual magazine. However I received nothing therefore there won't be a magazine this year. I hope members can write some articles for this and I know that people have been out and about doing interesting things.

I am happy to edit both the newsletter and the magazine, however I can't do this without appropriate content. This is especially true of the magazine. Therefore I would urge all of you to think about what you can contribute. It doesn't have to be an extensive article, short items are equally welcome along with photographs, or even just a series of photos with some captions or comments.

I can't produce a magazine by myself so please get writing!!



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Chairman's Thoughts

My recommendation this month is not a book but a regular column. Many of you will be familiar with Jim Perrin's regular feature in The Great Outdoors Magazine called The Hillwalkers' Library. This is an excellent source for all sorts of books to do with mountains, hillwalking, the environment and travel writing in general. The byline for the

column is "Literary recommendations for hillwalkers with a passion for the written word". This is a great description of this excellent source. A writer with a passion for both the hills and the written word is an apt description of Perrin himself who is a fine writer in his own right and his own books are worth checking out. If you are not familiar with this column then I would thoroughly recommend that you have a look.

We are now officially into winter and as I write the weather has turned decidedly colder with snow falling on the Scottish hills and indeed on lower ground. Winter is a fine season to get out into the hills but do be careful and ensure you are properly equipped to deal with the conditions. Decembers' edition of the Great Outdoors has a good article on planning and preparation for winter hillwalking written by an instructor from Glenmore Lodge which includes an equipment check list. There are also articles on new gear for a variety of winter activities. So if you are struggling for ideas for Christmas presents for the mountaineer in your life, these are worth checking out!

Speaking of Christmas, the festive season is now upon us and I hope many of you will have time to get out and about on the hills during the next few weeks. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a very merry Christmas and a happy new year and, as they say in Scotland, Lang May Yer Lum Reek!!

Pete