



Promoting Interest in Mountain Activities

The Gwydyr Monthly Newsletter February 2015

Hello and welcome to the February edition of the monthly newsletter, thank you to all of those who provided content for this newsletter. Once again I would ask as many members as possible to send me details of what they have done or are intending to do as this provides the content for the newsletter,

What's On This Month?

7 Saturday Walk: Blackstone Edge (Brenda).

20-21 Hut Weekend.

28 Saturday Walk: West Pennine Moors (Mark Barley).

Future Attractions!

March

7 Saturday Walk: Brown Clee Hill (Pete Mann).

17 Annual General Meeting: Stork.

20-21 Hut Weekend: 48th Annual Dinner.

April

17-18 Hut Weekend: Members 70th Birthday Celebrations.

24-25 Hut Weekend: St George's Day (Geoff Brierley).



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Recent Activity

January

10 January Saturday Walk Berwyns.

Dave Gray writes – 13 people out on this trip. It was a bright, sunny, cold day with an extremely strong wind. To stay sheltered we ascended the (very boggy in places) Clochnant valley to Bwlch Maen Gynedd. On the col the wind was blowing a full force eight and we got blown around. Therefore we decided to go for the shorter option of a quick blast up Cader Fronwen (784m), down the ridge to the Memorial Stone and the Nant Llynor path back to Llandrillo. We got great views from the top of the Arans, the Arenigs, Foel Goch, Carnedd Y Filiast and the green valleys to the south east of the Berwyns. Unfortunately the main Snowdonia range was invisible. There was the odd piece of involuntary bog-snorkeling on the way down but in general we managed to keep our feet in really strong and bitter winds. On the way home a number of the party had a pint or two in the Bridge Inn at Pontblydden to round off a bracing day.

16-17 Chris Harris, Jane Webster and Fiona Langton had a walk over Gallt Yr Ogog and Foel Goch and on the Sunday Chris did Moel Siabod by the south east ridge.

23-24 Hut Weekend. On Saturday three major walks were undertaken by different groups. The first was Moel Eilio-Moel Cynghorion ridge. The second was Drosogl and Bera Back and the third was Gallt Yr Ogof and Foel Goch. Other lower level routes were also tackled.

Saturday evening saw the annual Burns Night celebrations with a great deal of feasting, reciting of poems, singing and general merriment. Many thanks to Janet and Chris Harris (and helpers) for providing an excellent meal and well organized evening in general. Most of the company dressed up for the evening -although I must say some of them have a rather strange ideas about what constitutes Scottish dress!!! A special mention once again to Kevin McEoy for his efforts- where does he get his outfits!!

Committee news

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 17th February.

Other news



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Chairman's Thoughts

The weather over the last month has been variable to say the least with this last week seeing some of the coldest temperatures so far this winter. Some areas have been hit quite badly with snow, others have received little or none at all. I do enjoy being out in the hills when there is snow around. The hills take on a very different character when covered in snow even those hills we are very familiar with. Unfortunately I have only managed to get out twice when there has been snow around. Once during the New Year meet and once during the middle of the month I managed a day on the Clywds with just a dusting of snow. Several times I have driven up to Snowdonia and seen the hills in distance with a good covering of snow but by the next morning this has disappeared as the weather has changed. Such are the vagaries of a British winter! The forecast is for the current cold spell to continue into the next week so hopefully I will get to use the ice axe and crampons yet.

My recommendations this month are some websites I have used over the last year. While I personally prefer books and would class myself as a bibliophile; we cannot ignore the web these days. There is a wealth of useful information out there, particularly for planning purposes and especially when on the move.

The first website is www.walkingtobritain.co.uk which is a site I have used over the years and also because it is run by a former colleague of mine. It has different walks of at various levels and is organized into clear sections. While I don't always follow the listed walks, I do find it useful especially going into an area I am not so familiar with.

The second site is one I used a lot when up in Scotland over the last year, www.walkhighlands.co.uk. Again organized in clearly defined sections and it covers most of Highland Scotland. Full of useful information and I like the detail given and icons provided for each walk. The one giving indication of the underfoot conditions and how wet it could be is a nice touch. I thoroughly recommend it to all when venturing north of the border whether you have a lot of experience of the Scottish hills or perhaps contemplating your first trip.

Both these sites provide a wealth of additional information as well as detailing specific walks, so as I said earlier are excellent sources when planning any venture out into the hills.

The next site is one that was recommended to me recently. I had gone out to the chapel mid-week to join in the first of the Welsh Corbetts being attempted by some of our senior members this year. Unfortunately it was cancelled due to bad weather. However, whilst at



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the Chapel I got talking to an advanced party of the Kinder Club who had booked the hut for the following weekend. These guys were also members of the Kinder Mountain Rescue Team so were very experienced mountaineers. In the course of the conversation I asked what they had done that day and was informed they had done some of the Sims as one of them was attempting to complete these. As I had no idea what these were I asked for more information. Apparently they are yet another classification of hills. In this case hills over six hundred metres high and with a drop of at least 30 metres all around. Anyway this led to the guy who was logging these referring me to the following website www.hill-bagging.co.uk. This is the online version of the Database of British and Irish Hills and lists all the different classifications of hills including Munros, Corbetts, and many others that I was not familiar with. You can use the site for information about the various classifications and their location and you can even use it to log your progress in completing them as well if you so wish. Again a very useful site for information that will appeal to both the casual user as well as those who are committed tickers.

I hope all of you can get out on the hills soon

Pete