



Promoting Interest in Mountain Activities

The Gwydyr Monthly Newsletter April 2015

Hello and welcome to the April edition of the monthly newsletter.

Once again I would urge 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

3-4 Easter Bank Holiday.

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

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

Future Attractions!

May

1-2 Brecon Beacons (Lindsey Fooks).

Margaret's birthday activity weekend.

15-16 Hut Weekend: cycle to hut (Chris Harris).

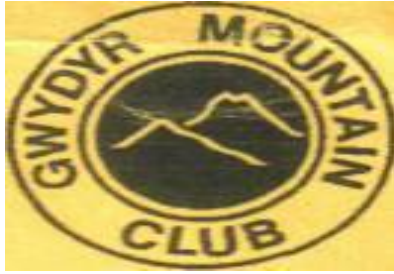
Gail's Birthday Ceildh.

22-30 Ullapool Self catering Week (Teresa Peddie).

June

5-6 Patterdale Hut Meet (Kevin McEvoy).

26-27 Hut Weekend: Welsh 3000s.



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Recent Activity

March

7 Brown Clee Hill-Pete Mann.

Ten members gathered at the appointed meeting place for this day walk, which is, I believe, a new location for the GMC. The walk took us through farm land, country lanes and forested areas to join the Jack Mytton Way for a short stretch before eventually ascending via open moorland on Clee Liberty to the summit of our first hill, Clee Burf. Here one of the numerous depression left after quarrying afforded us a good sheltered place to have lunch. We then joined the Shropshire Way as we headed north past Burwarton Pole, the five springs and Sandy Nap to Abdon Burf at 540 metres the highest hill in Shropshire. This provided us with great views over the Long Mynd, Wenlock Edge, the Stiperstones and the rest of the Shropshire Hills area of outstanding natural beauty. After another stop for refreshments we made our way back through more forested areas to the car park. In all a round trip of approximately ten miles. The weather was good with largely clear blue skies but rather windy even at lower elevations. The day was rounded off by a drink in the nearby Grouse Inn.

17 Annual General Meeting.

This was held as usual in the Stork in Birkenhead. All the usual reports were given by the various committee members and the six motions on the agenda were passed. The minutes of the meeting will be circulated to members shortly.

20-21 Hut Weekend: 48th Annual Dinner.

The hut was very busy as usual for the annual dinner and many members made use of various hotels and other accommodation in order to attend the dinner. The weather for this weekend was excellent and on the Saturday before the actual dinner members took advantage of this to get out and about and enjoy North Wales at its best. A large party did a recce of the Carneddau in preparation for the Welsh 3000s. A smaller group did Pen yr Helgi Du and Pen Llithrig y Wrach and yet another group did Creigiau Gleision and Crimpiau. Two separate groups ascended Y Garn, one from Ogwen and the other from Nant Peris via Elidir Fawr. I drove round to Croesor and did a circuit of Cnicht and Moelwyn Mawr and Moelwyn Bach.

On Saturday evening, forty eight members and friends attended the dinner itself. Many thanks and congratulations to Geoff Brierley and team for organizing a thoroughly enjoyable night. The highlight of the evening came when the Chairman, on



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behalf of members past and present, presented Les Fowles with a photobook in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the club over the last forty eight years. After the meal and the presentation to Les the assembled members and guests engaged in dancing and general merriment for the remainder of the evening.

Committee News

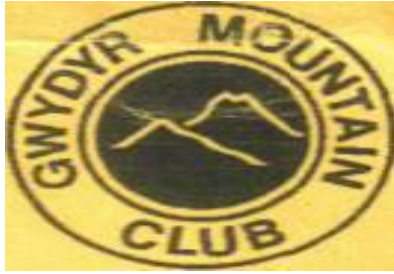
At the AGM, Dave Gray and Les Fowles stood down from their positions of Treasurer and Hut Secretary respectively. Jane Webster has taken over as Treasurer and John Simpson as Hut Secretary. I welcome both of them to the committee and look forward to working with them over the next year. All the other committee members were re-elected for another term.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for the 14th April.

Other News

1 April.

As you are probably aware in March 2013 the Department for Transport awarded Bristow Helicopters Ltd a ten year contract to deliver the new UK Search and Rescue (SAR) helicopter service. The 'go live' date for this contract is 1st April 2015. As I understand it although this is the date the contract goes live the service will gradually be rolled out across the country. Bristow intend to deliver the service from ten SAR helicopter bases across the UK with four of these in Scotland. So from April 1st, depending where you are in the country you may begin to see different aircraft responding to callouts across the mountains of Britain. Let us hope that GMC members do not require the services of any SAR helicopters!



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Chairman's Thoughts

The spring equinox has come and gone, the clocks went forward this weekend and we are now officially into British Summer time. Last weekend at the chapel and the annual dinner the weather had a definite spring like feel to it. The fields were full of lambs and on the Saturday the forecast was warning people out in the mountains to use sun cream! Spring is a great time to be out on the hills, there is plenty of daylight, it is not too warm and signs of new life are all around us. Nonetheless we shouldn't forget that spring arrives later in the mountains and we shouldn't be too quick to replace our winter gear. Indeed snow is forecast for the Scottish hills this weekend. So if you are heading north over the Easter break be prepared for spring like conditions in the glens (if you are lucky) but winter on the tops and take all the appropriate gear you may need.

Last month I stated that I like maps and in particular old maps. I find it fascinating to explore how maps have evolved and changed over time and how we humans interpret and represent the physical world we inhabit. On this theme my recommendation this month is a book that has been published for a few years now, I was given this book as a Christmas present a couple of years ago and I am still in the process of reading it. The book is *Scotland: Mapping the Nation* by Christopher Fleet, Margret Wilkes and Charles W.J. Withers, 2011, published by Birlinn in association with the National Library of Scotland. This is one of these large coffee table style books and so it is a book you tend to dip in and out of rather than read from start to finish (or at least that is how I have used it). The authors are all academics from a geographical background but it is more than just a book about maps or indeed geography. The book touches upon the social, cultural and environmental history of Scotland and, as it says on the cover, it is a truly engaging celebration of maps. The focus of this particular book is Scotland and I am not aware of a similar publication covering other parts of the UK. If anyone does know of such a publication or publications then I, for one, would like to hear about them.

Pete