



The Gwydyr Monthly Newsletter February & March 2016

Hello and welcome to the February/March edition of the newsletter.

Future Meets

8-9 April	Howgills Camping meet (Dave Gray)
16 April	Saturday Walk: North Berwyns Way (Janet Coates)
21 April	Thursday Walk: Nantile Ridge (Mike McEneaney)
22-23 April	Hut weekend; St Georges Dinner meet (Geoff Brierley)
29 April – 7 May	Mull meet (Reg Cromer)

In addition we will continue the regular indoor climbing sessions at Awesome Walls in Liverpool on Tuesday evenings.

Last Month

The members have been busy over the last couple of months. Many thanks to all those who have posted photographs on the Facebook site, or sent me details of their activities. Without this there would be no newsletter, so please keep it up.

Tuesday Evening Talks



On 16 February, Jim Metcalf entertained us with stories and great pictures (see left) from his holiday in the Bolivian high mountains.

Then on **8 March** prospective member Neil Connelly gave us a “techie” talk on how to use how we can take advantage of new technologies to aid our enjoyment and safety in the hills. Well done Neil as the first prospective to give us a talk

South Clwyds Walk – 21 February (Lindsey Fooks)

11 members plus 3 prospective members set off from the Clwyd Gate towards Moel Gyw, with the intention of completing a circuit of the southern tops in the picturesque Clwyds. The wind was strong but bearable. Gradually the weather worsened, and we decided to cut short the walk and return to the cars via Moel Fenli. I think this was a mistake, as we ended up crossing very wet and muddy fields. Once





we started on the ascent of Moel Fenli, we felt the full force of the wind, and could barely stand up (the picture taken on the summit says it all). After battling our way back to the cars, we retreated to the pub in Llanferres to recover.

Hut Weekend (26-27 February)



There was a good attendance for the weekend. On the Saturday, a group of us (left plus Jane Webster as camerawoman) did a circuit of the Carneddau. Up Pen y Ole Wen from Ogwen, then over Carnedd Dafydd and Carnedd Llywelyn. We planned to do the spur off to Yr Elen, but by this time it was near to a whiteout, we could see very little, and navigation was difficult (no one took a compass bearing from Llywelyn!), so we retreated

and came down the ridge to the Water Board road. A great day out, only 12.5 miles but a lot of climbing.

Mark Barley's Winter Hill Walk on 5 March

Twelve GMC members braved the elements for a 10 mile walk up Winter Hill. We started from a car park on the outskirts of Horwich and headed up to the TV mast on Winter Hill by a circuitous route. First lunch was taken sheltering underneath a building directly below the TV mast which was shedding chunks of snow and ice which periodically shattered on the road in front of us. From there we made our way to the trig point for some photographs (see right looking N) and then descended on a poorly defined track half buried in snow which rapidly turned into a serious bog-trot into which everybody sank up to their





calves. Unfortunately Milly twisted her knee at this point although she managed to keep going. We eventually reached the Belmont road and a short walk brought us to the overgrown terraced gardens of Rivington where we had lunch below the Pigeon tower. We then had a short tour of the gardens before heading to Rivington Hall Barn where Milly, Dave G, and two others travelling in Dave's car took a direct route back to the cars. The rest of us

headed to a cafe for refreshments and then a walk beside the reservoir to "The Castle" (above left- a partially complete replica of a ruined Liverpool castle built as a folly by William Lever- Lord Leverhulme) before returning to the car park.

The twelve participants were:- Mark and Laura Barley, Dave Gray, Milly Wright, Helen Avison, Dave Chadwick, Reg Cromer, Ray Baines, John Simpson, John Crosby, Mike McEneaney and Paul Sinclair.

Indoor Climbing

The indoor climbing sessions at Awesome Walls in Liverpool on Tuesday evenings are proving popular. Those out at the hut have also been to the indoor wall at the Plas y Brenin National Mountain Centre, which is only a mile away from our hut.



Jane Webster in full flow at Plas y Brenin



John Simpson at Awesome Walls



Helen Grant on the pinnacle at AW

The Annual Dinner – Saturday 19 March

The 49th Annual Dinner was held in the Tyn y Coed, and was well attended by 49 members. A great time was had by all, with entertainment, a photo competition, the annual Bingo competition (thanks to Jane and Kevin for stepping in at the last minute to do this, and congratulations to Judy who won the first prize of a weekend in our fine cottage with its new kitchen) and enthusiastic dancing.



The winning entry for the photograph competition (left) was from Janet Harris. It was taken from the cable car station on the Aiguille de Midi on last year's Chamonix meet. The climbers are descending to the col en route to making an ascent of Mont Blanc

Gwydyr Holidays



Andy Odger and Jo Ledger have been on holiday in the West of Scotland, and have been keeping us up to date via Facebook.

It is good to see that they took their Gwydyr mugs with them for a brew up. The photo shows the view looking over to Islay from Jura