



# The Gwydyr Mountain Club Newsletter April - June 2016

PROMOTING AN INTEREST IN MOUNTAIN ACTIVITIES

## Editorial

By Glenn J. S. Grant

It has been an exciting few months with a number of very successful trips for the club along with a large number of walks carried out by members that are almost too numerous to mention.

The key to this as always has been the brilliant self organisation of the club and the major contribution that organisers bring to each event whether large or small. I would like to thank all of them for their tremendous efforts.

As well as the major trips and walks, the climbing at Awesome Walls and Plas y Brenin is continuing every Tuesday and if like me you want to improve your scrambling skills then it's a great way to make progress.

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It is also great to see a steady number of prospective members turning up at the Stork who then progress onto the hills with us. Please give them your full support should you meet them.

### Future meets:

05-06 Aug Anglesey Barbecue

12-13 Aug GMC Hut Weekend

16-17 Sep GMC Hut Weekend

Special additional meet:

Navigation Training being organized by Dave Gray and Doug for the Aug Bank holiday weekend, details to follow



### Snow on Mull

A week on Mull in a stunning location but also with a great variety of conditions. Plenty of good walking and a number of successful Ben More ascents. There will be a separate newsletter for Mull.



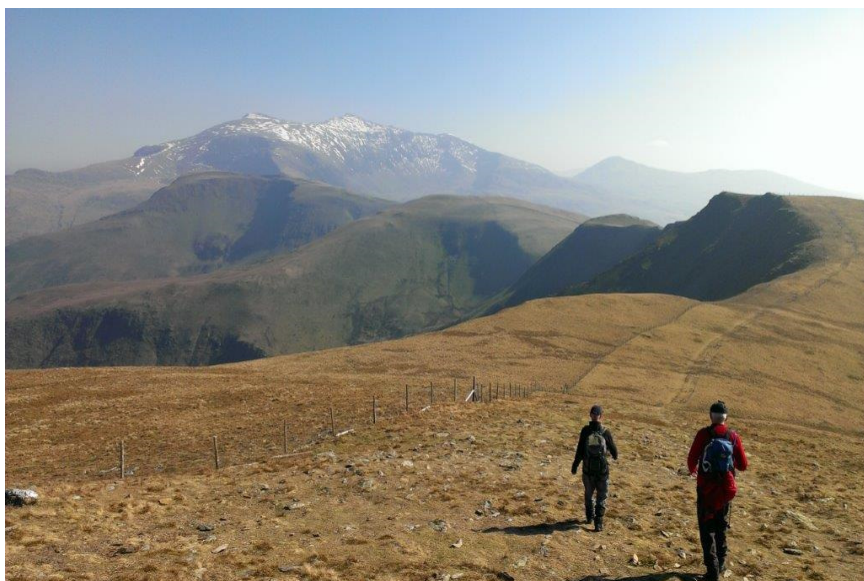
### Skye (full details in separate newsletter)

A week of great weather with tremendous walking including multiple attempts on the Cuillin Ridge.



**Moel Eilio Thursday 17 March 2016 (Mike Mceneany)**

Eight members & five guests assembled in a small parking area above Llanberis at a derelict farmstead called Maen-llwyd-isaf. We headed north up a track turning west. The ground was dry, a welcome change after a wet winter and the going easy. As we gained height magnificent views of Snowdonia emerged, stretching from Elidir Fawr, Tryfan, the Glyders, Snowdon, to the Nantlle Ridge. It was a warm day of hazy sunshine adding atmosphere to the scene. One member was heard to say "these are the best views of Snowdonia I have ever Seen"



Llanberis

Having lunched on Moel Eilio we headed south to Foel Gron & Foel Goch. It being such a wonderful day & having made such good progress we extended the walk to include Moel Cynghorion, then back tracking to descend via the path from the Snowdon Ranger to



Statistics: 8.4 miles, 2848ft of ascent. I strongly recommend this walk.

Members taking part. Roger Hughes, Dave Chadwick, John Crosby, Janet & Chris Harris, Helen Grant, Dave Gray & Mike McEneany



## Howgills Camping Trip 07-09

April – by Dave Gray

On the Friday Lindsey, Ronnie Davies, John Simpson and I did Green Bell and Randygill Top from Newbiggin on Lune in dry and cool conditions, a great wild day out. I got my car stuck in the mud at the start! On Saturday, the above plus Dave Chadwick and Ray Bains did a long walk from Cautley Spout over Calf, Calders (the highest two of the Howgills) and Arant Haw down to the E of Sedbergh and back by the Rawthey Valley. We had huge views of the snowy Lakes, Cross Fell and 3 Peaks. That night it belted with snow at the campsite.

On Sunday we did a circuit over snow plastered Wild Boar Fell from the W. The team was the Friday crew plus Ray, Gail and Doug.



Photo By Jane Webster

### Clwyds Walk Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2016 Jan Coates

At 10am the party of 8, Dave Chadwick, Dave Antrobus, Jane Webster, Mike McEneaney, John Crosby, Jan Coates, Pete Smedley, Chris Ramsden and Mojito, Chris's dog, departed from Cilcain. It was a chilly morning and earlier in the day a heavy fall of snow had occurred, leaving a couple of inches covering over the hillside.

We headed up towards the Clwydian ridge and walking a little used track crossed the ridge just below the summit of Moel Famau, and immediately descended down the west side of the ridge towards the Vale of Clwyd. We then headed north along the contour path to the car park below Moel Arthur. Then back up onto the ridge along Offa's Dyke path, passing below Moel Llys-y-coed and taking the track passing Plas-newydd into Cilcain.

Fortunately the white Horse pub was open and we sat outside in the warm spring sunshine, enjoying a well deserved drink,



**Walk Thursday 21 April 2016 Nantlle Ridge (Mike Mceneany)**



We had 12 walking the linear route of the Nantlle Ridge, 10 members & 2 friends, 8 miles, 3200 ft of ascent. here is good parking at the end of the walk at Talysan just off the B4418. We left Rhyd - du from the B4418 in brilliant weather, that lasted all day & rapidly gained height to the peak of Y Garn, 634m, inspired by groups of younger walkers. We then followed the narrow ridge, quite exposed in places, to Mynydd Drws y coed & then on to the summit of Trum y Ddysgl, 710 m.

exist & it is best so we struck west & pickup a metalled road & a variety of paths back to the cars

This was an exceptional good walk, which I would recommend to you all.

Members walking : Janet & Chris Harris, Helen Grant, John Crosby, Bryan Gilbert, Dave Antrobus, Jane Webster, Dave Chadwick, Neil Connolly. Friends : Roger Harris & Dave Brigden.

The views were spectacular, Snowdon massif, Moel Hebog & out to the coast. We continued to Mynydd Tal - y - mignedd, 655m, Craig Cwm Silyn, 734 m, to just beyond Garnedd goch ,710 m, where we descended via the mountain wall into a grand bog.



From here many of the footpaths shown on the map no longer seem to



### St George's Night – 22-23 April

Another good weekend of walking with a very successful meal and assorted beverages , many thanks to Geoff for organizing the party at which everyone had a great time.





**Mull 29/04 – 07/05**

There will be a separate newsletter about Mull so just a short note to say that it was an excellent week in a stunning location and a couple of pictures. This was a view of the accommodation at Loch Ba:



And here is a view over the loch to the mountains – very snowy for early May!





### Members weekend 13th -14th May (Photos by Kev McEvoy)

A number of members made good use of the fantastic weather with a group led by Kev McEvoy and John Simpson



attempting the north ridge of Tryfan for the first time including the chairman. It was challenging but after much effort was successful.

Following that there was also a pleasant walk across the Glyders including the usual stop at the Y Gwylwr (The Cantilever) as you can see below with Ray, Paul, Mike, Simo, Glenn and Helen, Note it was Mike's first time out with the GMC as a prospective !



## Walk Thursday 19 May 2016, Drosgl & Gym Wigau from Rachup - Mike Mceneany

A total of 16, 13 members & 3 friends parked on the north side of the village of Rachup, then headed east through the remains of the Moel Faban slate quarry, traversing the lower slopes of Moel Faban to the short ravine of Bwlch yn Mhwll-y-le & on to the broad valley of the Afon Ffrydlas.

From there, the summit of Gyrn, 542 m, looked interesting, so we diverted from our intended route & were rewarded with great views of the Menai Strait through to Puffin Island.

Unfortunately the promised rain arrived & we had light rain for the rest of the day. We proceeded south east to the coll between Gym Wigau & Drosgl & from there summited Drosgyl, 757 m.

Returning to the cars along a pleasant descent during which we saw a number of quite young foals on the lower slopes.



The route was approx 7.0 miles, 2228 ft ascent.

We hope to have better weather on next walk to the adjacent peak of Yr Elen & see some of the views we missed this time.



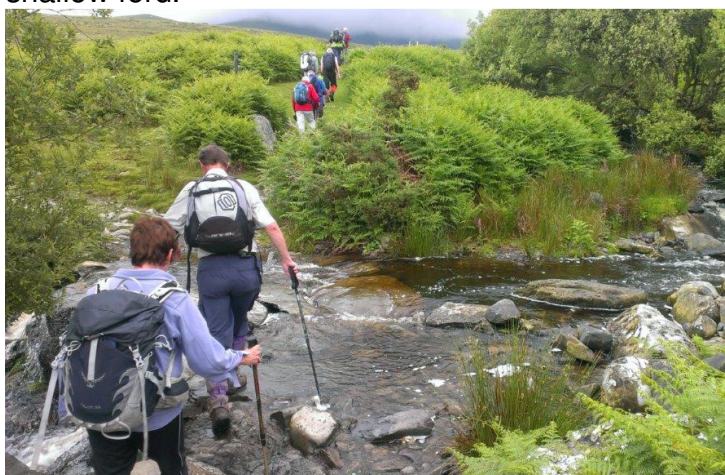
Members walking : Fiona Langton, Jane Webster, Janet & Chris Harris, Helen Grant, Roger Hughes, Dave Antrobus, Dave Chadwick, Pete Smedley, Neil Harris John Crosby, Derek Burrows. Friends : Dave Brigden, Greg Gleasor, Steve Tuffs.



## Gerlan, Bethesda to the summit of Yr Elen 16/06- Mike Mceneany

We had an excellent turn out of 15 for the walk from Gerlan, Bethesda to the summit of Yr Elen. We set out with the summits clear, alas not to last.

After parking in Gerlan we headed south east & at the end of the lane picked up a well sign posted footpath along the south bank of the Afon Cenllusg which we soon were able cross via a shallow ford.



The path continued south east heading to the Afon Lafar, which proved to be more of a challenge to cross, taking us further up stream than we intended. Here the path petered out as we headed into remote valleys, more reminiscent of the Scottish Highlands rather than North Wales, especially as the cloud was slowly descending making it very atmospheric.



There followed a hard slog across pathless soft ground until we reached the small tarn of Ffynnon Caseg, hidden from view for so long. The best part of the day followed as we made the summit ascent to Yr Elen via a narrow ridge which would have given us magnificent views but by this time we were in thick cloud.



The descent route was surprising easy across firm ground, entering Gerlan from the east. This would be an interesting alternative route up onto the Carneddau to Carnedd Llewelyn & Carnedd Dafydd. One for the future!

Distance circa 8.5 miles, 3,384 ft of ascent.

Members taking part : Dave Antrobus, Chris & Janet Harris, Helen Grant. Sue Taylor, John Crosby, Roger Hughes, Richard Smith, Dave Chadwick, Pete Smedley, Mal Bonner, Mike McEneany. Guests : Roger Harris, Dave Brigden, Steve Tuffs.

## Lake Windermere Meet – 17- 18 June 2016 – Anna Roberts

### Friday

Dave Gray and Jane arrived first and did well to bag us a beautiful lakeside spot. Myself and Mike following shortly afterwards and Charlotte, Max and Mille not far behind to enjoy their first camping trip.

With sunset being so late we had a great evening getting our pitches set up and making dinner, discussing everyone's plans for the weekend

### Saturday

Christy arrived bright and early and joined Dave and Jane on a walk that involved an obligatory 'off the hill' drink in the The Old Dungeon Ghyll

Melinda and Richard arrived and swiftly head off to Wallow Barrow Craghead and completed a 2 star severe route named Thomas with Melinda leading 2 pitches graded 4b.



Mike set off in his beautiful handmade boat, named Lynne ready for the boat race of the year!!! With supporters on the lakeside ready to cheer him over the finish line. Although he didn't win, he did give the infamous Torduff brothers a run for their money!

Charlotte, Max, Millie and myself spent the day in and on top of the lake with lots of swimming and trying out various different vessels that the organisers had brought for people to try! Kayak a firm favourite for Max and Millie now asking for a

stand up paddle board for her birthday.....sorry Char!!!

For the evening we had set up a gazebo, BBQ and fairy lights to celebrate a successful day of sunshine and smiles. Dave G did a great job in perfecting our skimming stones whilst the sun was setting.



### Sunday

It was Christy's turn to part take in the boat race (5 miles) where she came first in her category so won a medal!!!



She also had to practice her survival skills and help a fellow SUP who fell in the water and couldn't get back on her board.

The rest of us had another chance to get free use of boats again or squeeze in some more walking before heading off home.

Using Mike's words to sum the weekend up:

'Great weekend at Fell Foot. Thanks to everyone for coming along and making it a fun time. More like a holiday than a weekend sunshine, warm water and restful campsite and a couple of races survived.'

Hopefully we will see you all at this meet next year!



Next issue due out in the Autumn will cover all of the summer meets.

If you would like an article to appear in the next newsletter then please pass on a few words and pictures to Glenn via the usual email address.

End page.