



The Gwydyr Mountain Club Newsletter

November 2021

Edited: Chris
Harris

Not a lot this month, please keep the articles coming so I can keep the newsletter running.

Coming soon: (details on meets list on GMC website)

3-5 December	Hut Weekend
11 December	Saturday Walk: Bryn Alyn - Janet Coates
13-14 December	Photography: Geminids Meteor Shower Neil Connolly
24 Dec-2 Jan	Hut Xmas and New Year Meet

2022

8 January	Saturday: South Clwyds and Llanarmon - Janet Coates
21-23 January	Hut Weekend: Burns Night - Neil Connolly
4-6 February	Hut Weekend
12 February	Saturday Walk: Peak District - Dave Edwards
18-20 February	Hut Weekend
20-23 February	Winter Scottish Meet - Chris Harris

Articles this month

- 1) 18th September Saturday Walk: Blackstone Edge
- 2) 27 November Saturday Walk: Llantysilio Hills (Horseshoe pass to Carrog)

1) 18th September - Blackstone Edge by Brenda Turnbull

There were 10 of us on the meet, we had the 3 Dave's, Bill, Jane, Debbie, my daughter Ellen and her boyfriend Ellis and my friend Lisa who they helped me remember the way.



We had a gorgeous sunny day and were so lucky that the car park at Hollingworth Lake had re-opened that day (note to self, check car park the day before), although the toilets were still closed, but hey who needs them when you have a shewee and a bush.



From the Car park we set out towards Lydgate to ascend the steady but steep Roman Road towards the Aiggin Stone.

The Aiggin Stone is inscribed with a Latin cross and the initials IT. There are mixed views about its origin, but it is mainly considered to be a medieval guide stone for travelers and to be about 600 years old. You can just see the stone peaking over the top of Dave's rucksack on the right.



With such a lovely sunny day we had a great view at the top of Blackstone Edge, so we stopped to take in the views whilst having lunch. Unfortunately there were a few cheeky wasps about who seemed to like the Turnbells, as one gave me a little sting on the arm and another hitched a ride down the hill inside Ellen's top before getting a bit cross that it couldn't get out and stinging her a couple of times. Luckily my first aid kit was on hand to aid.

With the gorgeous views and pleasant weather we were able to continue the walk across the Pennine Way and over the M62 motorway bridge.



Once over the Bridge we then continued the circular walk taking us back by going under motorway to arrive at the Wine Press for a well earned beverage.

2) 27 November Saturday Walk: Llantysilio Hills (Horseshoe pass to Carrog) - by Chris Harris



In August 2018 I organised a day walk of 33 miles - The Llangollen Round. Unfortunately the last section, Llantysilio to Carrog was blocked by a peat fire on the Llantysilio hills which meant we had to take a low level route around the base of the hills so this was walk arranged to cover the missing bit.

Peat fire on Llantysilio mountain 2018

It's only a short section but with a day short on daylight and the need to meet at the Ponderosa cafe and move some cars to Carrog meant 7.5 miles was probably enough.



Then came Storm Arwen !

Ten brave walkers made it to the start line, including 3 prospective members, Fiona Green, Mark Evans and Katrina Megget. The "regulars" were me, Dave Chadwick, Helen and Glenn, Hew, Ray and new member Debbie Kennard. Just getting to the meeting point was a challenge as many trees had blown down overnight but we were all there in plenty of time.

Another problem; the Ponderosa was closed for health and safety reasons - hopefully something to do with the

weather rather than the food. We set off to deposit 2 cars at Carrog only to find the road to Carrog was closed. Fortunately the sign had blown over so we did not see it (Nelson would have been proud of the Gwydyr). There was one large tree fallen across the road and quite a few large branches, but the tree fellas had been busy and had cleared one side so we were able to get through.



Back to the Ponderosa and after checking that all were willing to give it a go, we set off. We were on a bit of a plateau so wind speed was pretty constant - none of the terrible buffeting and gusting you get in the mountains.

There are 4 lumps enroute, Moel y Faen (548m), Moel y Gamelin (577m), Moel y Caer (504m) and Moel y Morfydd (549m) with very sharp ascents and descents between some. Needless to say it was very difficult to stay upright for the majority of the walk. On the bad bits

I tried something I've not done before and that was linking arms with another person. This was surprisingly effective, it was as if the wind had lost most of it's strength. I kept asking if the group wanted to carry on and all, without hesitation, said yes. Someone actually said that we did not notice the hills as we were putting so much effort into trying to stay upright



We descended from Moel y Morfydd down to one of the many Bwlch y Groes in Wales to make our way on to Carrog, still exposed but with more manageable wind speed. We joined a section of ancient bridleway and part of the Clwydian Way, which was fine in 2018, to find the farmer had placed regular feeding stations on it and branches blown across and generally overgrown.

Obviously a victim of lockdown, it has been little used in the past couple of years.

The final descent through woodland deposited us in the car park of the superb Grouse inn at Carrog where a welcome pint was waiting.