



The Gwydyr Mountain Club Newsletter

December 2021
Edited:
Chris Harris

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

24 Dec-2 Jan Hut Xmas and New Year Meet (remember to check Welsh Covid Regs.)

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

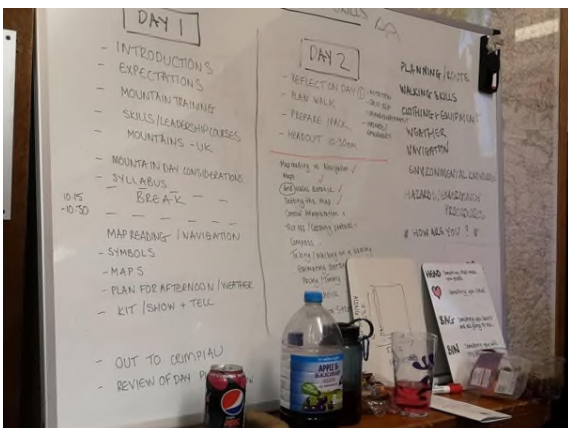
(more details now on meets list - login to members section)

Articles this month

- 1) Mountain Skills
- 2) Bryn Alyn
- 3) Club Christmas dinner
- 4) Rydal Caves

1) Mountain Skills Course - By Nicky and Brenda

On the 25th and 26th of September 2021 six members (Brenda, Melinda, Nicky, Pete, Tom and Zahida) completed the Mountain Skills Course led by Christie Miles of 'Way of the Wild' and also a GMC member. The course fee was subsidised by the club and the hut provided an excellent base and teaching area at no extra cost.



As you can see Christie kept us busy learning the difference between map reading and navigating. We consolidated our learning through fun games and practice out on the hill. On Saturday we headed out towards Crimpiau, the weather was good and we all managed to read the map matching features with symbols. On Sunday the weather wasn't so kind as we headed up Siabod which made practising pacing and bearings a little difficult!



With Christie's knowledge and excellent teaching we soon got to grips with using a compass.



From thisto this in 24 hours!!!

Thanks to Christie and the GMC we can all head out into the hills more confidently and safely.



2) Bryn Alyn 11th December - By Janet Coates

14 GMC members departed Pystyll Gwyn quarry car park with the threat of a day of heavy rain. We skirted the quarry and followed lanes and footpaths to the 403m spot height of Bryn Alyn where we had good views of the main Clwydian range. We then crossed lower ground to the slightly higher 408m Bryn Alyn top. The forecast rain started so we ignored the final 3rd top and descended NE to Pant Du, then followed footpaths to Maeshafn. Arriving in the village, without losing anyone to the Miners Arms, we headed west and entered Big Covert wood. Here amongst the mature beech trees were a number of trees felled by the strong winds of the storm the previous weekend. Following a track through the woods we dropped down to pass Mount Pleasant farm, then skirted the edge of the wood to pass Bryn-yr-orsedd. Then paths and lane past Bryn-haidd to return to the quarry.



Luckily the rain had remained lighter than forecast for most of the walk. Our final distance 7 miles, ascent 1400ft.

Following the walk, some of the group visited the Druid Inn at Llanferres.

On arriving at the car, after the walk, Dave Antrobus realised he had lost his car keys. However, Dave and Jan walked part of the route on Friday, 17th December and, amazingly, found Dave's missing car keys.

3) Club Christmas dinner

Obeying current government guidelines, Roger Hughes organised a Christmas feast at Gallaghers pub.

It is my understanding that all went well, many pizzas and much ale was consumed and there were no breaches of HM Gov. regs.

No photographs of the event have been come to light so we can only take Roger's word that the event took place. Maybe in months to come images of shenanigans will surface.

4) Rydal caves - Chris Harris



In all the time I have spent in the Lake District I have never seen Rydal Caves and in fact did not know of their existence until a couple of weeks ago. They are clearly marked on some OS maps and either accessed by a short walk from Rydal or could be incorporated into a circuit of Loughrigg Fell.

There are two smaller caverns which require a bit of agility to access but the main one is an easy walk in on stepping stones.

The caves are man made, created through the extraction of slate.

Most of these slate caverns have been blocked off. There was one near the Bowder Stone, in Borrowdale, it was massive with shelves and openings at a high level above the entrance but many people were injured or got stuck climbing the internal walls so it was destroyed by explosives many years ago.

