

# THE GWYDYR<sup>No. 1</sup>

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GWYDYR MOUNTAIN CLUB

**Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year To You All !!**

Hello all !!

Following on from Christine's monthly newsletter it has fallen to me to keep up her sterling work. I think the newsletter should contain a bit more than what we get done on the hill and should also include some more stuff for those who don't always read the committee minutes. I would also like to give details of forthcoming events / meets. Many members can't make it to the pub on a Tuesday and so are not aware of what is going on and one hopes that we can make you all feel more of a part of the club.

Here goes anyway .....

## **Andy Chapman – Himalayan Wanderer**

Firstly we have to mention Andy Chapman who 'only' managed to climb four 'hills' in some eight weeks in the Himalaya. One of them happened to be Cho Oyu (8201m) the sixth highest mountain in the world first climbed in the 1950's by the Austrians Herbert Tichy, S. Jochler and Sherpa Pasang Dawa Lama. As if that was not enough Andy then went on to climb Ama Dablam the stunning and difficult looking peak near to Everest. It involves technical rock climbing at altitude and is a much stiffer proposition than many higher peaks. Andy was informed on his return to Kathmandu that their trip was the most successful British Expedition to the mountain. Surely Andy's employers should give him a crack at Everest now !!



Cho Oyu



Ama Dablam

And as if those two peaks were not enough Andy managed a further ascent of Island Peak and some other 'hill' whose name I have forgotten.

### **Johnny Dawes Lecture.**

Several members went to see the Johnny Dawes lecture at Cotswold's shop in Liverpool and it was a really good night even though I never got a t-shirt in the raffle and everyone else did – if you've never heard of Johnny Dawes he is a bit of a climbing legend in a similar vein to Joe Brown and Don Whillans. His most famous climb is on Clogwyn Du'r Arrdu called 'The Indian Face' a fall from which would almost certainly prove fatal since there is little protection – though JD seemed to think he could survive such a fall by running down the slab (it's more of a wall than a slab !). His book is due out in mid 2010 and should be a worthwhile read.

### **Chapel Weekend 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> November.**

This was a seriously wet weekend, Myself, Andy Odger, Neil Metcalfe, Kevin McEvoy and prospective member Ronnie went for a walk up Pen Yr Ole Wen on the Saturday. Our original plan was to attempt the scramble at the back of Cwm Lloer but the winds were incredibly strong to say nothing of the horizontal rain. We then decided to try the East ridge and despite being blown over twice, such was the force of the wind, we finally got to the top only to turn around again to come back down. It was a good short day out and Neil helped morale by finding a couple of cracking holes and bogs to fall into. Dave Gray et al were much more sensible and went for a walk in the woods around Betws Y Coed. Margaret, Graham and Reg carried on their superb work with the panelling in the Chapel lounge and entrance area. Sunday was little better weather wise and so we all went home.



Just Before the weather turned really wet at the start of the walk !

In early December I went to the Chapel for a few days and had a great day on Snowdon in superb winter conditions with crisp neve all the way up from Llyn Glaslyn on the Miners Track. Andy Odger came out the next day and the weather had turned miserable again so we went up Moelwyn Mawr where I took it upon myself to find the good boggy bits. We descended under Moel Yr Hydd and had a look in the old slate caverns which look hugely impressive and are well worth seeking out. Carol and John went shopping on the Sunday !

### **Delamere Forest – The Thursday Walk !**

This proved to be yet another of Mike Mc’s excellently attended walks with some 15 members out. Apparently a great day was had by all and they managed to find (in true club tradition !) an excellent ‘Hobbitesque’ pub in Delamere. These mid week walks are proving especially popular and long may they continue to be so.

### **Yet more snow in Wales.....**

So far the winter has been pretty good and on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December Carol, John, Neil and I went up Y Garn and despite the biting cold wind we enjoyed a pleasant few minutes on the summit and as the clouds momentarily lifted we caught glimpses of Moel Elio and Mynedd Mawr bathed in winter sunlight and under a crisp mantle of snow. Katie Harris was out with her Wrexham friends and followed on behind us as she was delayed somewhat ogling the climbers on the ice streaks in Cwm Idwal – conditions were marginal but promising for later in the week. The snow fell heavily overnight and Sunday saw the same crew out on the Glyders but this time ascending from Pen Y Gwryd up the Miners Track to the small Llyn Caseg Fraith which was covered in what appeared to be solid ice. John proved it wasn’t that solid by falling in and going up to his thighs in the icy water – oh how we laughed !! We then walked over Foel Goch and Gallt Yr Ogof back to Capel and a nice Hot Chocolate in the cafe before Geoff Brierley picked us up to get back to the cars. Geoff had come out to do some more research on his River Conwy book which is coming along nicely he says.



Neil Metcalfe near Y Garn summit



Neil & John approaching Llyn Caseg Fraith

Shortly before John went for a swim !!!!!

Dave Gray went out to see the snow on the North Yorkshire Moors on the Saturday and he had a good day out in the Clwydian Range with Christine on the Sunday.

## **Other Stuff.....**

If anyone has any pictures / news they would like to see in the next newsletter please email them to me together with a brief outline of what you've done. I will aim to get the next newsletter out at the end of January and then every four weeks after that. If you have any suggestions (nice one's please !) then please email me to let me know.

### **Christmas Dinner - 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2009**

This year's Christmas dinner was in The Stork where we hold our regular Tuesday night meet and it was a well attended event with plenty of food and cakes from Iceland (the supermarket – not the country !) We are open to suggestions for next year so get thinking about where you think we should go.

### **Committee Meeting**

The next committee meeting will be on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2010. If you want the committee to discuss anything then please email a committee member with details.

### **Forthcoming Meets**

**22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2009 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2010** – Club Chapel Meet

**9<sup>th</sup> Jan 2010** – Sat Walk (contact PJ for details)

**22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2010** – Burns Night at the Chapel (contact Geoff Brierley for details)