

THE GWYDYR NO. 7 (JUNE)

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GWYDYR MOUNTAIN CLUB

What a superb month of brilliant weather we've had this June, apparently the driest it has been since 1922 !

One piece of great news is that Melinda Kinsman is back climbing again and together with Andy Chapman she climbed Charity on the Idwal Slabs and Central Arete on Glyder Fawr. Later in the month she spent a week at the Chapel with Richard and went climbing most days, Richard even allowed her (how kind!) to lead a few pitches.

Dave Gray and Reg Cromer went to Kintail for a week and they enjoyed superb weather for climbing Corbett's of which Dave only has twelve left to do now!. One imagines it will be the 'Donalds' next is it Dave ? They also visited the falls of Glomach and stayed in the Maol Buidhe bothy.



The first meet of the month was the Pitlochry meet organised by Mike Mc, several members attended accompanied by a 'gourmet trekker' Honor Dixon who has been whittling away at her Munro list (apparently only thirteen left to do now). They climbed Meall Buidhe in Glen Lyon, Creag Mhor & Beinn Heasgamich in Glen Lochy, Beinn Dearg in the Grampians as well as Beinn Chabhair which was climbed by a couple of members on the Easter trip. The weather was good or 'goodish' according to Dave though the pictures look fine and the dreaded 'midgies' were well behaved and not too troublesome.



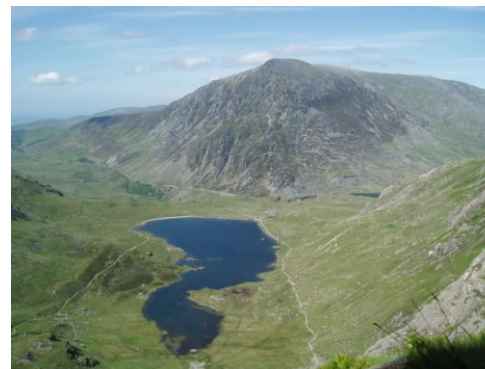
Jim Metcalfe got his month off to a good start with two good walks in Wales, on the 2nd June he ventured up into the wilds of the Carneddau from the Two Stones car park and headed up to Carnedd Uchaf & Foel Grach before heading East to descend and meet the track between the Dulyn & Melynilyn reservoirs which ultimately led him back to the start. On the 11th Jim walked up Elidir Fawr from Nant Peris and tramped over Y Garn before following the Afon Las back down to Nant Peris.

Next up was the All Stretton Bunkhouse trip in Shropshire which was well attended and good fun was had by all nine members. Mike Davies and Dave Gray walked the Wrekin on the Friday in damp conditions though thankfully the rest of the weekend was blessed with fine weather. On the Saturday all members did Pole Hill together with the summit of Long Mynd, clearly this was not enough for the three David(e)'s who continued along the ridge for a good fifteen mile day. Sunday proved fine again and a good ridge-walk on Caer Caradoc and The Lawley was completed.





Neil & I had a cracking day out on the 12th June when we did what is now popularly called an 'enchainment' but I prefer to think of it as just a good day out climbing. We arrived at the Idwal Slabs to find several (slow) parties on ALL the routes and we needed a plan 'B' to save the day. A two minute walk from the foot of the slabs led to the delightfully rough, clean rock of 'Idwal Buttress' (Diff), it proved even more delightful as no-one was climbing on it and so we roped up and had our fun. After that we scrambled up to climb 'The Arete' (V. Diff) and with the heat of the day becoming almost too much we scrambled ever higher on incredible rough rock to reach the foot of 'Grey Slab' (VS) which was, thankfully, in the shade. It was way too early to consider heading back down and so we decided to sneak a final climb in with the excellent, but serious, 'Central Arete' (V.Diff). The last few pitches were in the sun and we enjoyed a magnificent view down into Cwm Idwal, the great heat of the day had gone now though the sun still shone brightly as we made our way back down the Devil's Kitchen path and back to the car. A superb day that was rounded off nicely by a cool beer in the Tyn Y Coed.



The next day saw fifty members ascend Moel Sych in the Berwyns for the scattering of John Huxley's ashes. Ronnie Harvey read a nice poem and most people had a wee dram or a glass of wine as the ashes were scattered. Thankfully the weather just about played fair till the scattering was complete and most of us had begun to descend as the mists rolled in and heavy rain ensured a very damp return to the cars.



On Friday the 18th June the Harris family walked the lovely Fairfield Horseshoe from Rydal, eleven and a half miles with 3500ft of ascent including seven 'Wainwrights' led, somewhat inevitably one believes, to the Eagle & Child pub in Staveley for a pint of Hawkshead Bitter. The journey back to the Wirral was a doddle apparently as the roads were empty due to the England game.



Andy Odger had a very good time in Scotland where he and seven lady friends (how does he do it ??) went up Ben Nevis by the CMD arête. The next day he took them for a walk in the Lost Valley in Glencoe where he allegedly received several proposals of marriage but then woke up !!!

The Welsh Three Thousands.....

This year the event proved to be really popular with four finishers, an excellent result given that it was held on what subsequently proved to be the hottest day of the year.

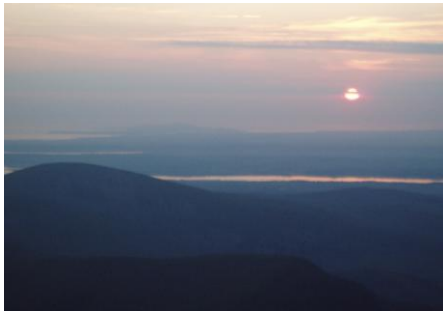
The scores on the doors were :-

	Pen Y Pass	Start	Vaynol	Arms	Ogwen	Cottage	Finish	Pass of Two Stones	Overall time
			Arrival	Depart	Arrival	Depart			
Allan Macdonald		04.27	06.52	07.36	13.33	13.58	18.10	19.30	13.43
Chris Harris	04.58	06.08	08.30	08.55	15.42	16.10	21.25	23.10	15.17
Neil Metcalfe		04.27	06.52	07.36	13.43	Retired			
Mark Cashman	04.58	06.08	08.30	08.55	15.42	16.10	21.25	23.10	15.17
Geoff Brierley	04.58	06.08	08.29	08.55	15.42	16.10	21.25	23.10	15.17
Dave Cole		04.14	06.40		13.13	Retired			
Ronnie Davies	04.58	06.08	12.00	Retired					

I was particularly pleased to have Keith Colwell accompany me on the final stage from Ogwen, thanks Keith – even if you only came to chat further with those ladies who had difficulty parking their car and who you no doubt espied walking up Pen Yr Ole Wen before us !!!

Thanks also must be offered to the manufacturer's of Magnum ice creams and Diet Coke (see below) !

Also thanks to all the support team for sticking with us on such a beautiful day when I am sure you would rather have spent the time on the hill. Without you we would not have an event !



I am assured that the club web site will have more pictures on in due course.

One final thought..... I would like to propose to the club that we consider re-naming the Welsh Three Thousands weekend the 'John Huxley Welsh Three Thousands' given that the event was so dear to him.

It would be a fitting tribute, easy to uphold and clearly one that will keep his memory alive, please email me your thoughts so we can discuss it at the next committee meeting.

I was lucky to be able to stay out for the following week and, save for the odd wet day, I managed to get out and do some more climbing and walking and even a bit of Kayaking.

Forthcoming Meets :-

02-03	Lakes Meet - Adrian Dolan
08	Thur Walk -Wirral C-2-C Mike McEneaney
09-10	Summer BBQ - Bryn-crug (Nuala Dunn)
16-17	Dent Camping Trip -Dave Gray
23-24	Snowdon BBQ - Sue Taylor
31-01	HUT Weekend