

THE GWYDYR No. 10 (SEPT)

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GWYDYR MOUNTAIN CLUB

September has proved another busy month for the club with lots happening each weekend and generally the weather has been good though, save for one or two days, not quite the Indian Summer we had hoped for.

One meet that did not make it into the last newsletter was Dave Gray's August Bank holiday trip to Pembrokeshire. Ten members attended the meet staying at the, apparently rather good, Independent Hostel in Trefin. They enjoyed four days of near continuous sunshine doing some great coastal walks, seal spotting, swimming and a pub or two. The Pembrokeshire coast is a stunning area and there is much for walkers and climbers (and Kayaker's) to do so perhaps we should make the effort to go there more often.

The Chairman and Phil Earl enjoyed a few good days climbing in Snowdonia before the twin's 120th Birthday party at the chapel. It proved to be a few days of 'Classic Rock' routes with Oxine, Dives / Better Things, Spiral Stairs, Outside Edge and Kirkus Climb all falling to the fingers and toes of the mid-week work shy slackers that we are.



Phil Earl on Seamstress



Allan Mc on Kirkus Climb



Phil Earl on Outside Edge

Alas after three days of good weather we had to endure a rotten day and as Phil drove home, I enjoyed a nice morning in Betws watching the Salmon leaping the falls and drinking far too much coffee than was good for me.

Mike Mc had a good Thursday walk on Wat's Dyke and plans to make it a Saturday walk next year. Ross McGraw went for a walk in the Berwyns around the Memorial Stone, Matt Lang

was on Bodmin Moor which was quiet and Katie Harris went climbing in the Lake District leading Severe's on Raven Crag as well as doing an impressive Grade III scramble.

The Twin's 120th birthday bash !

A great weekend was had at the Chapel with members arriving Friday afternoon onwards. A total of 23 members set out on the Saturday morning for an ascent of Moel Siabod. Nineteen made it to the summit and enjoyed a glass of Champagne in wet and windy conditions. Tony Lamberton, Richard Kinsman, Andy Chapman, Andy Odger and I went to an equally wet and windy Moelwyns. We climbed Africa Rib, Ashael and Y-Gelynen though Andy O & I only managed Africa Rib before the call of the cafe and Betws shops could be heard. Towards evening the weather improved and the seemingly obligatory 'off the hill' was indulged at the Tyn Y Coed and also the vastly improved Cobden's.



Andy Chapman abseiling off Africa Rib



Allan Mc walking off Africa Rib !!

Everyone retired to the Chapel where vast amounts of food and booze were awaiting, great thanks to Helen Brady et al for their efforts in producing enough food to feed an army. One sad point to note was that your Chairman was largely sober due to Mr Mann knocking over a particularly nice bottle of red that I'd only just opened ☹

A bleary eyed group awoke Sunday morning to largely blue skies and the promise of dry weather. Some members went up the delightful Cnicht from Gelli Lago (nr Nantmor) while Richard, Tony & Andy Chapman went to the Clogwyn Cyrau crags above Betws Y Coed. Allan Mc and Mark Cashman went climbing on Idwal Slabs ascending Tennis Shoe and The Arete. These were Marks first climbs and I am assured not his last !

All in all a good weekend and with nearly 40 members at or near the Chapel it was good to see so many faces out there.

The following weekend there was Mark Barley's walk around Gradbach however I have no details of who went etc.

On the weekend of the 24th October Sue Taylor had her Canal Trip which went well though Mike complained that he was the one who had to open all the locks.

At the Chapel Peter Vaughan, Allan Mc, Andy Chapman and Mark Cashman went to the Moelwyns on the Saturday. The weather on the Saturday was fantastic and we all climbed the usual classics on Clogwyn Y Oen. On the Sunday Allan Mc & Mark Cashman went to the Llanberis Pass and climbed Skylon on Carreg Wastad where Mark was mildly scared before being properly scared on the ladder of death at Pigeon's Cave on the Great Orme.

One point I'd like to mention is that both the Bedford and Derby clubs who have recently hired the Chapel have commented on how much they like the improvements we've carried out !

KATIE HARRIS BAFFIN ISLAND TRIP

Baffin Island Expedition

1st August – 30th August 2010

300km. 3 weeks of hauling 25-30kg packs through bog, tundra, moraines and over glaciers. My ankles, knees and hips didn't appreciate any of this but the scenery was incredible and I gained a much deeper understanding of the Inuit culture.

The Inuit people are fantastic; we lived with them for 5 days. We ate seal meat and raw, dried and boiled char (very like salmon)...although I wouldn't recommend the fish eyes- too chewy and they burst in your mouth *bleurgh*.

We watched Bowhead whales swimming amongst the remainder of the sea ice in the bay and the small community of Qikiqtarjuaq (500 people) buzzed with excitement/fear when a polar bear was spotted on the outskirts of the hamlet.

A 3 hour boat ride took us to the end of the fjord as seals swam playfully in the water. Once in the pass the peaks stretched a vertical kilometre from the valley floor and almost every day we saw chunks of rock the size of family cars...the size of houses, plunge down the frost shattered peaks and explode into pieces.

We saw tundra alive with colour, arctic poppies, blueberries, lemming scurrying down burrows, wolf spiders, arctic hare

(glaringly obvious in their white coats against the summer rock and tundra), geese honking as they launched into flight, ravens shrilly crying as they swooped through the sky, snowy owls and polar bears (luckily from a distance).



June Valley. A sheer face stretching over 1km upwards from the valley floor towers over our tent.



Norman Glacier, Baffin Island, Arctic Canada

We climbed steep terminal moraines over 50 metres high, crossed rivers carrying vast quantities of silt and the occasional chunk of ice as they powerfully eroded their banks. In the afternoon they rose with the melting of the ice, so high and fast they were uncrossable and boulders could be heard rolling in the river bed.

On the glacier we saw vast chasms carved by the melt water, picked our way carefully between the crevasses which enticed us to gaze into their deep blue gashes. Medial moraines stretched as long brown streaks down the glacier.

As we slept in our tents, pinned down by ice screws and rocks that we had gathered from the glacier surface, the glacier groaned and moved beneath us, it shuddered and creaked and the rivers roared like jet engines throughout the night!

Katie Harris

Come down to the Stork on Tuesday 2nd November to find out more about the expedition.

Thanks to Katie for the above and hopefully we'll have a big turnout !

FORTHCOMING MEETS

OCTOBER 2010	
08-09	HUT-Weekend
08-09	Wasdale Show (Bryan Gilbert)
15-16	Sat Walk -Rainow - Mark Barley
22-23	Langdale Hut Meet (Allan McDonald)
28	Thur Walk - Vale of Clwyd Mike McEneany
NOVEMBER 2010	
05-06	HUT-Bonfire Party
20	Sat Walk - Rawhead Mark Barley
26-27	HUT Weekend

One meet I would like to 'plug' is the Langdale Hut Meet of the 22nd & 23rd October 2010. I had reserved eleven spaces earlier this year and took deposits however I lost the piece of paper with all your names on. I know roughly who said they would come and I've had a few cancellations so if you want to go let me know as soon as possible. I can take a few more people if numbers are high however at the moment we are struggling to fill the eleven allocated.

Please have a look at the Wayfarers Club website www.wayfarersclub.org.uk for details of the hut location and pictures. There's a log fire, good showers etc and we're only a few minutes from the pub ! I've had 11 deposits of £8 and the balance (another £8) is due when we leave. The hut is a converted 18th century barn and is one of the earliest climbing club huts in the country, superbly situated in the heart of the beautiful Langdale valley and at this time of year it's a great place to stay especially if the weather is cold and crisp. The autumn colours on the hills can be awesome and there is so much walking and climbing in the valley you won't need to drive anywhere. Parking at the hut is not a problem which will save you a fiver a day as parking charges are slightly excessive in the valley.

I should also mention the Wasdale show which is a great weekend in one of the most beautiful and remote of English valleys. One of the attractions for me is that you can't even get a mobile phone signal in the valley.

BONFIRE WEEKEND AT THE CHAPEL

Please note that this popular event fills up quickly so if you can't make it to the club on a Tuesday evening please email a committee member to advise if you want to go as soon as possible. Margaret is arranging the food and there is the usual fireworks and bonfire which should be good this year as we've no doubt got plenty of stuff to burn from the Chapel Refurb works ☺

XMAS DINNER 2010

We may have found the ideal location for our Christmas Dinner this year in the Peerless Brewery on the Wirral. £12 a head and all the beer you can drink with a 'hot-pot' thrown in for good measure. More details will follow in the next few weeks ☺

2011 MEETS LIST – IMPORTANT

We are in the process of putting together a meets list for next year which we want to get out by the end of October at the very latest.

We **need your help** so please email either myself or Dave Gray if you wish to organise something. It can be a simple day walk or climb, a weekend or a longer trip but we need you to do something so have a think, dig out those old OS maps of places you haven't been to for years and see what you can do.

With regard to climbing I am going to ask Les/ Dave G to put a brief note at the bottom of the meets list stating that climbing trips will invariably be at short notice (more reliant on the weather etc) and that those members / prospective members who are interested need to come along on a Tuesday and or text / email me for more details.

I will try to arrange at least one 'beginners' meet next year probably on a club chapel weekend and I would also like to arrange something regular midweek either at the climbing wall or, come spring / summer an outside venue.