

THE GWYDYR_{No23(OCT 2011)}

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GWYDYR MOUNTAIN CLUB

Hello once again !

It's been another great month for the club with lots of good meets and deeds of daring do.

At the end of September Teresa Peddie and Bethan Hines caught the last of what looks like the best of the good weather for the year when they went to the Chapel. The intrepid duo made it across Crib Goch in glorious sunshine. An ascent was also made of Moel Siabod with Geoff Brierley and Neil Metcalfe.





Around the same time (sorry unsure of exact dates) Andy Odger and some Scottish friends went to the Chapel and were joined by Neil, Teresa and Bethan for some good walking / scrambling and drinking.



At the start of the month I went up to the Chapel for a few days hoping to catch the last of the 'Indian' summer – I missed it (as well as the Chapel ghost – see above) ☹️

However, I did manage to get out each day despite the strong winds and near constant rain. One day saw me on Cefn Du above Llanberis, this is a nice peak and not far from Moel Elio (I never slipped this time !). Another day I did a low level walk in really foul weather to Ogwen Cottage from the Chapel, it proved so bad that I was glad to meet the bus to Betws Y Coed where a fruitless hour was spent trying to photograph the many leaping Salmon – patience is not really my strong point where photography is concerned !

On the 8th October (a hut weekend) I was joined by the usual suspects though only Neil was willing to get wet and so we walked up Cnicht, not seeing a thing though the wood stove in the cafe was commandeered to dry our clothes out.

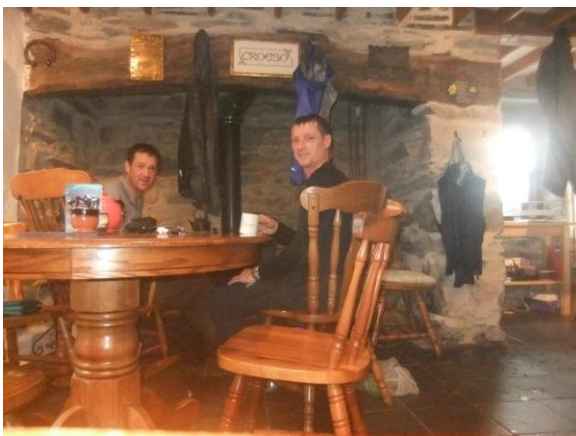
Bethan Hines went for a walk with some friends in the Peak District where she managed to stay quite dry !



Mynydd Mawr from Cefn Du summit



The old bridge at Ogwen on the A5



Drying out in the Croesor Cafe ☺



The impressive Carreg Hyll Drem

The next day (Sunday) proved very wet yet again and so Bethan Hines, Andy Odger and I went for a tough walk on the beach and back lanes of

Llanfairfechan – were it not for cafe on the prom one wonders how we would have coped !

There were other club members out at the Chapel but sadly I neglected to take notes of what people did so sorry about that !

On Thursday 13th October I had a great day out in the Peak District with Phil Earl. Despite some indifferent and decidedly damp weather we managed 17 climbs on Burbage North – nothing harder than VS was done but we had a great time on a crag Phil had not been to before.



Yours truly on 'Steptoe'



Phil Earl on Ad Infinitum

The following weekend Dave Gray with Lindsey Fooks and Martin (prospective member) went for a nice walk in the Peckforton hills of Cheshire. Geoff Brierley et al went to the Arans as well. Bryan & Helen were to be found in Cornwall on the Coastal paths while another party made their way to Stathwaite for some walking and drinking ☺

Andy Odger, Neil Metcalfe and Teresa Peddie went to the Lake District and had a cracking couple of days on Helvellyn and Blencathra. On the Saturday they managed the classic Striding / Swirral Edge horseshoe before poor weather on the Sunday saw a more 'pedestrian' ascent of the shapely Blencathra.



Neil Metcalfe 'Striding' along the edge ! Andy Odger & Neil with chums on summit



A great picture !!



The gang enjoying 'emselves



Teresa & Neil on Striding Edge

Looks like everyone had a cracking weekend !

Family commitments did not allow me or Phil a full weekend away but we did manage a cracking half day in the Lancashire quarries of Denham and Anglezarke. Another ten routes were done including one with the longest route name imaginable – 'Mohammed the Mad Monk of Moorside Home for Mental Misfits' – a brilliant Very Severe and worth climbing if only for the route name alone 😊



Phil on 'Mohammed the Mad Monk...'



Phil on Glister Wall @ Anglezarke

A few days later Bethan Hines, Andy Odger and I went to the Peak District for some climbing fun. We arrived, after the obligatory cafe stop in Hathersage, at Burbage North car park to be greeted by strong winds and a sudden downpour of rain and sleet. Patience is a virtue and while ours was stretched that day we were rewarded in the end with a cracking day out. Ten routes were climbed in a short afternoon and as they day wore on the weather improved and in the end we were climbing in lovely, though cold, sunshine. It was Bethan's first time on Gritstone and Andy's first time at Burbage so a really good day was had by all.



Bethan on Overhanging Buttress Arete



Andy on Overhanging Buttress Direct



Andy studying pebbles on Big Chimney Arete



Moi on 'Now or Never'

The next trip on the meets list was Dave Gray's annual Camping Barn meet at St John in the Vale in the Lake District. Eight members attended ensuring a fully booked hut and despite the poor weather we all managed to get at least one good walk or climb done.

Dave Gray, Reg Cromer, Ray Baines, Kevin McEvoy and I arrived early on the Friday afternoon / evening and once the wood stove was going it seemed a good idea to have a game of Monopoly. I bought from the US a few years ago a special 'Mountaineering' edition of Monopoly and it is a great version of the popular board game. Instead of the usual well known streets the players can buy Mountains and charge rent etc. Instead of houses and hotels one has little tents and base camp tents instead of houses and hotels.

In a word (or two) it's great fun. I won't dwell on this too much but certain people are more competitive than others and while cheating is a strong word there was more than an element or two of such shenanigans and while the loss of the rules didn't help much I thought there was a distinct lack of fair play ;-)

The Ladies arrived later (after that staunch supporter of Capitalism – Reg Cromer had won Monopoly) and a few glasses of wine led to a comfortable night's sleep with a hope of a good day on the hill in the morning.

It was definitely windy when we awoke but thankfully the rain largely kept away for most of the day and while Kevin McEvoy and I sauntered down to the Castle Rock for some climbing everyone else went for a good long walk over the 'Dodd's'.

Despite the seeming impending collapse of the North side of Castle Rock the south side is still perfectly safe and stable. Kev and I did four climbs of which 'Via-Media' was far and away the best – one of the best routes I've done in the Lakes actually. We got back to the barn before the walkers and so it seemed reasonable to go the pub where we were eventually met by Dave Gray and Bethan Hines.

A cracking evening followed in the Camping Barn, a roaring fire and plenty of nibbles (to say nothing of the booze ☺) ensured a great night in though women and cigars is a definite no-no ha ha !!!



Let the battle commence



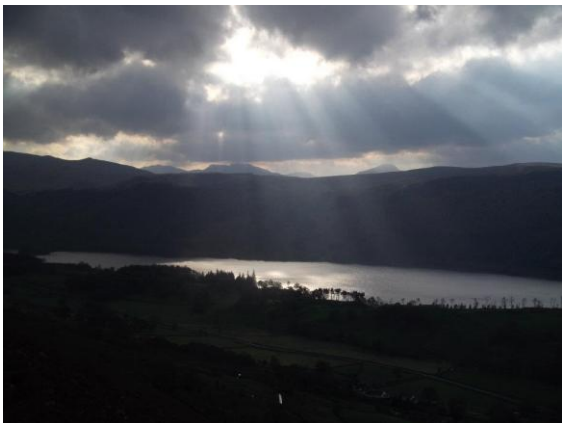
In full flow, it's about to get nasty.....



Kev on the first few moves of Via Media



A quiet night in for the Gwydyr



THANKS TO BETHAN FOR THE PICS !

The next trip on the list was to be Ray Baines 'remote' cottage booking in the Aran's. The cottage was a long ten minute walk from the road-head and while this is not normally a problem for such redoubtable members, 14 bottles of wine plus beer does weigh a bit apparently and so it proved to be hard work for our intrepid team – but they came through in the end ☺

The weather was a bit mixed with Saturday proving exceptionally wet though better weather on the Sunday allowed for a good walk with great views.



Carrying essential supplies !!



Neil 'Fire-starter' Metcalfe !



Neil and Andy – the moody duo !!!



Andy, Bethan & Neil



The 'lonely lonely' cottage



A hill !

Bethan Hines wrote the following on the weekend.....

Andy, Neil and Beth set off for Bryn Hafod with not only a grid reference and an OS map but a postcode for the Sat Nav, spare clothes, food, drink and even pillows.....what could possibly go wrong??

A Sat Nav is always best used in the car that you are driving rather than in the car left at home!! An OS map is not always easy to read in fading light! Result? checking out the next valley en route!!! So..... all was well, all parked up as the sun finally set and apparently it was only a short walk to the hut, in fact we could see the welcoming lights in the distance!3 very laden down members of the GMC complete with sleeping bags, paella, scary spicy pumpkin soup for Halloween, a 'few' beers and 'just enough wine', hill food and pillows.....set off up a very dark and muddy track with a couple of dodgy head torches!! Could we maybe have travelled a little lighter???

Reg, Ray, Lindsay, Martin, Mike Mc were already at the hut and the fire was lit, so a bit of food and a few drinks later and we were settled for the evening.

Late arrivals Dave Lane Joint and Dave Chadwick were greeted by an old lady at the door informing them that the hut was a further mile up the road.....old lady?.... Mr Metcalf!!! Much giggling could be heard from the others and they weren't quite convinced that they were in the wrong place!!

Everyone managed to walk on Sat despite drizzle turning into heavy rain and winds nearly blowing everyone away on the tops. Andy shared his navigation skills with Neil and Beth up Glasgwm in the mist!! The others had set off a little earlier and it transpired that our way up was their way down....no wonder we never caught them up.

A few beers at the Llew Coch in Dinas Mawddwy followed courtesy of Doc Martin and his expanding car that seated 7!!.....and then a very wet walk up the muddy hill back to the hut for a bit of 'socialising' around the fire.

Sunday was a much better day and both groups again managed to walk. Beth , Andy and Neil went up Waun Goch and Pen yr Allt Uchaf which offered much better views of the Aran's in the Autumn sunshine. The rest of the gang managed a walk en route home.

All in all a great weekend in a hut in a brilliant setting.....just travel light!!

Jon Murphy and Christy Miles stayed at the Chapel where the weather proved extremely wet though they did manage some low level walking. Brian Gilbert went a walking in the Malverns too.

At the end of September Richard & Melinda Kinsman went to Yosemite and she wrote the following which will be of interest ☺

Just wanted to let people know that Richard and I headed off to the States at the end of September, in order to tackle some Yosemite granite! We are both now well-practised at jamming our hands and toes painfully into narrow cracks, and I also seem to have re-found my lay-backing muscles!! The views were amazing. We had 7 days of climbing in the sun on warm rock, despite a torrential 2 day storm in the middle (which filled the dry creeks and falls, and gave Half Dome an unusually early covering of snow).



Half Dome with a dusting of snow



Yosemite Falls



'After the storm !'



At the top of our 1st climb



Richard on Bishop's Terrace 5.8

Back home again, Rich, Tony and I headed out to Ogwen on Sunday 30th October, and, despite an unpromising forecast, had a surprisingly dry and mild day's climbing at Bochlwyd Buttress. We managed Two Pitch Route (S,4a), Five Pitch Route (HS, 4a) and Marble Slab (HS, 4b), before finishing with me leading my first Severe (Chimney Climb).



Melinda leading Chimney Climb ☺

After five days of being 'dad' over half term I managed to sneak a couple of days climbing in with Bethan Hines who needed to go to Wales to buy a pair of boots for her fat feet (the man in Cotswold's words – not mine ha ha !!)

We went onto a very damp Little Tryfan for two quick climbs and the next day we did Chic (V-Diff) in the Moelwyns and just got back to the car before the heavens opened. Definately a 'Brucie Bonus' couple of days climbing ☺



Good old 'ickle' Tryfan



Bethan on the top pitch of Chic

On Thursday 3rd November 2011 Neil Metcalfe and I went out to Wales but the weather was not conducive to climbing so we had a gentle ramble around the forests of Betws Y Coed. The colours were fantastic with the trees every colour imaginable.



A Japanese Maple



A Rainbow ☺

THE SGM – COTTAGE BATHROOM

Thank you to all those who attended the Stork last week and those who voted by email. The motion to re-furbish the bathroom was carried and it is hoped works will commence shortly with Reg Cromer once again in the thick of it.

If any members have ideas as to how the cottage or chapel facilities can be improved, or if you would like the committee to consider anything please feel free to email me (allangwydyr@hotmail.co.uk) and I will raise matters at the next committee meeting.

FORTHCOMING MEETS

NOVEMBER 2011	
04-05	HUT Weekend -Bonfire Party
12	Saturday Walk: Appleton (Mark Barley)
25-26	HUT Weekend

Andy Chapman was hoping to hold a talk at the Stork this coming Tuesday (8th November 2011) but he's still in Nepal and so the talk won't be taking place. We'll ask him when / if he can do a talk in the near future.

In relation to Mark Barley's walk on the 12th November 2011 I attach the following email from him, please email him direct to advise if you are going.

This walk starts in Stretton, just off Junction 10 on the M56. There is parking on the dead-end minor road just off the A49 between the M56 and the cross-roads in Stretton (GR 618822). We will meet at this location at 10:00 (please note time). The walk will be a mixture of rural and urban with the possibility of good views over Warrington and hopefully some nice autumn colours. It will be 7-8 miles with a pub stop by the canal in Hillcliffe/Stockton Heath. Please bring a packed lunch, good waterproof boots and let me know if you are planning to join us.

Mark Barley

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