

# THE GWYDYR No30(JUN/JUL 2012)

## THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GWYDYR MOUNTAIN CLUB

Hello, well at last the weather seems to be picking up and we've been busy getting out and about trying to make the most of things.

I received the following photographs from Dave Gray too late for the last newsletter but they are too good to leave out and so I've included them here. They are from the recent Torrion meet at the beginning of June – thanks Dave 😊



First up for this newsletter is our annual Welsh 3000's extravaganza which saw a larger number of competitors and finishers than we've had for many a year. A total of thirteen members were dropped off at Pen Y Pass car park a little before 5.00am under a damp grey sky. Janet Harris, Bethan Hines and I formed the first support team at Nant Peris car park and when the competitors started to arrive they were welcomed with bacon butties, porridge and much needed hot drinks. The weather was decidedly miserable and it was useful to have pitched a tent so that participants could change into dry clothes.

Dave Gray was in charge of the Ogwen support team and he saw Neil Metcalfe, Geoff Brierley, Chris Harris, Katie Harris and her boyfriend Miles, John Simpson, Helen Beddows and her boyfriend John through onto the final leg over the Carneddau range in improving weather. It was great to see so many finishers this year and I am sure that Mr Huxley will have been smiling at it all 😊

Andy Williams has kindly provided me with the following photographs though I am sure members will have many more :-



On the same weekend Mike Mc & Ross had a good 14 mile walk in the Clwydian range and Margaret, Graham, Lin & Paul and Debbie & Keith have all gone cycling in the South of France a la Bradley Wiggins methinks !!!!!

Doug and Gail were also out of the UK, in Canada to be precise and they've kindly sent me the following – thanks Doug the pictures are great 😊

Doug Florence and Gail Smith had a 2 week holiday in British Columbia in Canada and Washington State in Northwest USA in July. I had made brief work visits there a few times and it looked so nice, I wanted to go back for a holiday.

Gail flew into Vancouver on the rather convenient Air Transat direct flight from Manchester. I had been working in West Coast USA the week before I met her there. We hired a car and mostly stayed in cheapish motels to avoid the hassle of camping. We made a loop from Vancouver round Squamish, Whistler, Pemberton and Lytton in Canada, then crossed the border into USA and spent a couple of days just south of Seattle, then three days in the North Cascades mountains not far from the Canadian border.

Our stay coincided with an unusually hot and sunny fortnight in the area, so we were lucky with the weather. We had a day in Vancouver visiting the UBC botanical gardens and the Museum of Anthropology which has been on my tick list for sometime.

We did some good hikes. From Squamish we went up the Stawamus Chief. This is a granite hill which looms over the town and has fantastic (but mostly very hard) climbing on the face. We went up the back which is a fairly short and very popular hike. The views over Howe sound and across the Mount Garibaldi and the Tantalus range were fantastic.



We hiked up to Garibaldi Lake which is astoundingly beautiful, with glaciers coming down to it from Mount Garibaldi. There was more (wet) snow than normal for that time of year, so we weren't able to go much higher.



In Pemberton and Lytton it was surprisingly hot but that was not a disadvantage for a day's white water rafting on the Thompson river, which has some huge, high volume rapids. We initially rather scorned the concept of "power rafting", but by the end of a day in such big water we could see the advantages.

In the middle weekend we went sea kayaking with an overnight camp in the San Juan islands which lie between US and Vancouver islands. Sadly, we had no Orca sightings but several Bald Eagles and Ospreys were seen. A great two days kayaking in pretty much flat calm water with lovely scenery.



In Washington state we went had a day of cultural sightseeing in Seattle and went up Mount Si which had good view across to Mount Rainier further south.



In the Cascades we had an incredible day on the flanks of Mount Baker and got up to just below the glaciers, although it was hard work with the amount of snow cover.



This is definitely an area I would recommend for a visit. The scenery is awesome and the place is well set up for hiking and climbing. Prices are about the same as Europe and it is obviously very easy to get about and communicate. If you wanted to camp or do multi day backwoods camping the opportunities are huge; ditto if you wanted to get to grips with some glaciers. This was a bit of a “taster” trip for us and I hope we will get back there in the future.



The first full weekend in July was Nuala's Barbecue weekend which was as successful as ever. Dave Gray advises that the weather was good and that a good mid level walk was done on the Saturday on the coastal hills north of Afon Dysinni while the call of the sea on the Sunday saw many swimming at Cemetary beach near Aberdyfi. Helen Beddows decided that despite a long 3000's day she still had the energy to climb Cadair Idris.

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July was Mike Mc's Wirral shore to shore walk which saw ten people out in the sunshine for an eleven mile walk from Port Sunlight to Heswall.

The weekend of the 14<sup>th</sup> July saw a few of us camping on the Lley Peninsula near Tudweilog and a rather quirky campsite saw us conveniently placed for some great coastal walking. To the uninitiated coastal walking is not as easy as one thinks, invariably there are lots of ups and downs as well as inland detours to avoid some tricky sections where the paths disappear. Milly Wright, Andrew and Jan Coates walked a section of the Lley Coastal Path around the village of Trevor on the Friday, Dave Gray walked to Porth Oer, more commonly referred to as whistling sands. Friday evening saw Beth and I arrive at the campsite to meet Dave Gray, Helen Avison & Carol Boothroyd already in situ. We quickly pitched the tents before the heavens opened and we feared that our hopes of a relaxing glass of wine or two in the sunshine would be scuppered however the kindly camp site owner opened the old restaurant and we managed to enjoy a relaxing evening. Ray Baines joined us though sadly he had to put his tent up in the rain ☹️

Saturday dawned dry thankfully and we all went on a great walk to Morfa Nefyn along some stunning coastline, we saw much wildlife and I managed to get pretty close to some basking seals and earned the name of the seal whisperer from the others !! We found a cracking pub at Porth Dinllaen where access is only really possible on foot or boat, sadly it is only open for four months of the year however should you ever find yourself in the area it's well worth seeking out. Another pleasant evening followed at the campsite and on the Sunday we all kind of went our separate ways. Beth and I went to Aberdaron and walked the coastal path along to Mynydd Mawr with some beautiful views over to Bardsey Island. Dave Gray walked from the camp site to Porth Widlin and back.

All in all it proved a cracking weekend and all the more enjoyable in that we managed to avoid the heavy rain which plagued the mountains.





On the 18<sup>th</sup> July Phil Earl and I finally got out onto some nice dry rock in the Peak District. We managed eight routes on Millstone Edge and it was great fun to be actually climbing again 😊



Phil on the awkward 'Hell's Bells' (Hard Severe)



Me on 2<sup>nd</sup> pitch of Covent Garden (Very Severe)

The following weekend Beth went with her friend and (hopefully) prospective member Nicky for a walk on the Long Mynd in Shropshire. Dave Gray went with Carol Boothroyd up onto Arenig Fawr and Moel Llyfant. Neil Metcalfe has been out at the Chapel doing lots of walking and scrambling including the brilliant Llech Du spur.

The weekend of the 25<sup>th</sup> July saw several members and a fair smattering of prospective members at the Chapel for our monthly meet.

We arrived Friday evening and met Geoff Brierley and Neil Metcalfe who had been for a short walk from Conwy to the Chapel via the main Carneddau range.

On the Saturday Dave Gray and a large party made for the lovely Cnicht by way of the Nantmor valley. Neil Metcalfe, Andy Odger & Andy Chapman did the classic grade 3 scramble on the Atlantic Slab of Carnedd Y Filiast. I had a really good climb with David Lane Joynt (Chic in the Moelwyns) though sadly the weather was most unsporting and we got rather wet.

A pleasant evening in the Chapel followed as is always the case 😊

The next day saw a couple of groups go a walking, Bethan led a group up Moel Siabod, Dave and a few others went from the Chapel to Dolwydellan while myself, Andy Chapman, David Lane Joynt and Gail Smith went climbing on the Milestone Buttress in the Ogwen valley.

It was a good day and as it wore on the weather improved and so we had the pleasure of dry rock for a change. First we did Rowan Route with the somewhat perplexing Ivy Chimney finish. The sun then came out and dried the Direct Route out nicely however it is now such a polished and well worn route that it is very easy to slip on the glassy holds.



David Lane Joynt on Chic (V-Diff)



Andy Chapman & Gail Smith on Rowan Route



David abseiling



Andy Climbing Direct Route



Some weekend snapshots ☺

## **FORTHCOMING MEETS:-**

<b>AUGUST 2012</b>	
03-04	Rhoscolyn BBQ (Kev McEvoy)
11	Saturday Walk: Black Hill & Laddow Rocks Pennines (Dave Gray)
24-27	Hatersage (BH) Allan McDonald Camping or North Lees Bunkhouse
<b>SEPTEMBER 2012</b>	
07-08	<b>HUT Weekend</b>
15	Saturday Walk: Darwen Moors (Mark Barley)
21-22	Langdale Hut (David Lane-Joynt)

The Rhoscolyn meet has been and gone (twas good and will mention in next newsletter) and this coming Saturday walk has changed to Black Hill from Crowden (email / call Dave Gray for details). The next meet is mine in the Peak District and I've changed its location to the Field Head Campsite in Edale. I have sent an email out so please contact me if you are planning to come along.

### **LOST PROPERTY AT CHAPEL !**

Could all members please remember to check the drying room before they leave. I have an extra large Berghaus T-shirt and a pair of new looking woollen socks – if they are yours please email me – thanks

### **2017 – Club 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

An email has been sent to the membership over this however this is just a gentle reminder for you to send me your suggestions as to how YOU think we could celebrate this milestone club birthday. These things have a habit of coming round rather quicker than you think so please give it some thought – thanks ☺

### **John Huxley's book update**

For those of you who are unaware Geoff Brierley has decided to update John's book on the history of the club and so if you have any stories, pictures etc that John may have omitted (accept that this is highly unlikely but you never know) or have any material you think may be worth sharing then contact Geoff to discuss – thanks again ☺

### **And finally .....**

If you have any comments with regard to the club, our activities or properties please feel free to email me and / or David Lane Joynt (Club Secretary) and we will discuss at the next committee meeting. I hope to be able to get the next newsletter out mid September so if you have anything for inclusion please email me.

**Thank you, happy walking / climbing / cycling / kayaking or whatever you do ☺**

**PS**

Chris Harris has just sent me this cracking article on his Coast to Coast trip in June this year, thanks Chris ☺

## Coast To Coast – West to East

10<sup>th</sup> June to 24<sup>th</sup> June 2012

Many of you have probably done this walk so I'll cut the detail to the minimum.

The plan was to take the walk at a leisurely pace because our fellow walkers, Beverley (Janet's sister) and Bruce (husband) are not regular walkers but had spent a rather manic 6 months practicing. Walking West to East so we had the wind behind us – wrong, it was in our faces all but 3 days thanks to our shifted Jet Stream. June for fine weather – wrong ! Worst June for about a century.



Descent from St Sunday Crag



Angle Tarn, above Patterdale

### Highlights:

- 1) No rain in the 5 days crossing The Lake District.
- 2) The bonus of "help yourself" cafetiere coffee with honesty box at Black Sail youth hostel.
- 3) The man in the pub in Patterdale who gave Bruce "simple to follow" instructions from Kidsty Pike to Hawswater avoiding the steep descent and some of the slog along the lake. The instructions were: "Kidsty Pike to High Raise to Low Raise to Long Grain (sheep rubs mushrooms) to stream do not do bridge to lake". I was more than a little doubtful about the route. The next day it was cold and windy on the climb to Kidsty Pike – we wore everything we were carrying including gloves. Arriving at Kidsty Pike we could see a reasonable path for the beginning of the "recommended" route and looking at the map with two other pairs of C2C'ers, decided it would be worth a try. It was excellent. Magnificent views, gentle descent, path visible all the way and the "sheep rub mushroom" was visible on the horizon for a long time. I would strongly recommend this route, the instructions were spot on.



A confusion of C2C'ers



Sheep rub mushroom

4) The day of the Bogs – what a laugh ! There is a choice of paths over Nine Standards Rigg and I decided we would take the original route – shorter but potentially boggier after all the recent rain. In fact, the dreaded bogs were no worse than some we have crossed on less notorious routes and were more amusing than perilous.

5) All but three of the B&B's were good or very good, considering we booked them late (in February)

6) Lots of home made food in B&B's – bread, jams, even sausages in the Hermitage at Shap.



Queuing for the bog



Gunnarside Gill

#### Lowlights: Not many really.

1) The 3 days of heavy rain and strong winds were fortunately the shortest of the walk. On one of them we were in The Lion Inn, Blakey Ridge at 1245 and dried out in front of the fire enjoying a pint and soup and a roll while waiting for our lift to the B&B in Rosedale.

2) The pub (B&B) in Catterick Bridge where I put my shoes on to go in the bathroom (I wasn't sure which drain was making the floor tiles peel)

3) The B&B in Grosmont which put the Gross into Grosmont . The rooms were dirty, the shared bathroom and toilet were stomach churning. Janet and Beverly gave the owner a tour of the dirt which she denied existed.



Misty North Yorks Moors



The Wainstones



Stepping Stones at Egton Bridge

### The people:

The advantage of walking West to East is that you can talk (or not) to those doing the walk. We only saw about half a dozen lonely people going East to West. The Australian group, led by Michael, were great fun. They'd left the Australian winter (27C) and were wearing everything to keep warm in temperatures barely reaching 15C in our English summer. We met up at night and had some lively evenings with couples we met on route (apologies to those trying to sleep in The Buck Hotel in Reeth)

The Last day was a challenging day, we needed to meet the bus at 1530 having walked 15.3 miles, dipped our feet and thrown our pebbles in the North Sea and sunk a couple of pints. We arrived with nearly an hour to spare having crossed flooded moorland, squelched through 2 miles of mud alongside Littlebeck, bogs on Low Moor and torrential showers on the final coastal path. Finally a few beers in the Wainwrights bar in Robin Hoods Bay and four surprisingly happy walkers had finished the Coast to Coast walk. A grand total of 200.4 miles.



Helping Beverly across flooded moors



Self explanatory

In 15 days we had 3 very wet, 3 showery and 9 fine days. Not bad for one of the worst June's on record.

No blisters, Janet used a small compeed on a pink bit on her heel. I overtightened my boots on the first 2 days and suffered damage to my Achilles tendon so had to do most of the walk in trail shoes. Bruce started with a damaged Achilles but it got no worse. Beverly suffered from non waterproof waterproofs even though they are brand new

We used Packhorse in Kirkby Stephen to carry 1 x 20kg bag per couple between B&B's and to drive us to St Bees and collect from RHB.

For Navigation I took the Harvey strip maps but did not need them as the Martin Wainwright (no relation) book with it's 1:25,000 OS maps was excellent so at no time did we get lost, we missed a couple of paths by a few yards but that was due to talking to or following other walkers.

#### The Route:

Day 1: St Bees to Ennerdale Bridge, 14.9 miles.

Day 2: Ennerdale Bridge to Rosthwaite, 14.9 miles

Day 3: Rosthwaite to Grasmere via Helm Crag. 11.7 miles

Day 4: Grasmere to Patterdale via St Sunday Crag. 8.9 miles

Day 5: Patterdale to Shap 15.6 miles

Day 6: Shap to Orton 8.3 miles

Day 7: Orton to Kirby Stephen 13.6 miles

Day 8: Kirby Stephen to Muker (3mIs S of Keld) 15.6 miles

Day 9: Muker to Reeth 12.2miles

Day 10: Reeth to Catterick Bridge 16.6 miles

Day 11: Catterick Bridge to Ingleby Arncliffe 18.3 miles

Day 12; Ingleby Arncliffe to Clay Bank (Chop Gate lift) 12.2 Miles

Day 13: Clay bank to Blakey Ridge (Rosedale) 8.9 miles

Day 14: Blakey Ridge to Grosmont 13.5 miles

Day 15: Grosmont to Robin Hoods Bay. 15.3 miles