

THE GWYDYR No33(DEC/JAN 2012/13)

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GWYDYR MOUNTAIN CLUB



Hello all, happy new year and hope everyone had a good Christmas ☺

Think it's best to start with a new year's message from Andy Chapman :-

Happy new year

Just come back from my 4th ascent of Aconcagua, this time 8 out of 11 summited on summit day last Sunday. Not too bad for this mountain very windy at base camp. Many tents destroyed.

One client had major difficulties in descent, something of a epic 15 hrs day for me helping her, she has also met Margaret at some point in the Lake District.

Thankfully no frost bite or altitude sickness at all, also its still growing by 2 cm a year, one day it could be higher than Everest.

Flying home via Brazil tomorrow.

Andrew

Also for those who haven't checked their emails too closely over the Christmas period Dave Gray has made a couple of alterations to his January walks :-

Dear All

DAY TRIPS IN JANUARY 2013 – SATURDAYS 4 and 19: CHANGES TO PLAN

I hope everyone has had a great Christmas but we have had a lot of rain and those people who have been out will have found the ground very saturated. And we have more rain forecast. For that reason I propose to change the venues for my two Saturday walks in January 2013, in the hopes of not having people sprawling in mud. I hope everyone will feel this is sensible rather than just sticking blindly to plan A!

1. I will move the South Shropshire trip from 4th to 19th in the hope things will dry out. Further details nearer the time
2. I will abandon the Berwyns for a bit – my friends Hazel and Al report the plateau top is a lake of peat and water!

After sending out the last newsletter we had a period of reasonable wintry weather but alas of late, particularly over the Christmas period at the chapel, it's been somewhat grey and miserable but that's not stopped people getting out and having fun.

Beth and I have spent more time at the chapel ☺ and have had some cracking walks over some obscure and ill frequented hills (for us anyway).

A great day out was had on the oft overlooked hill of Yr Arddu near Nantmor where we had a good few rock climbs on fantastic rock in a delightfully remote setting though it was a hard earned pleasure..... the walk in was hellish with an average speed of less than a mile an hour !!! The walk out took even longer and involved some real Bear Grylls type jungle bashing, river crossing, tree climbing etc – My advice is if you're going to go there walk in from Croesor.

The following day we were joined by John Simpson and though the mountains were cloaked in mist we hoped that the coast would prove more fruitful and thus we made our way to Rhoscolyn to give John his first taste of sea cliff climbing. We managed three routes between us and I think he enjoyed it and at least we stayed dry unlike the Snowdonia mountains which looked grey all day. John went home Saturday night and on the Sunday Beth and I had an easy day on Foel Llyd and Tal Y Fan in the northern Carneddau.





The first club meet since the last newsletter was Mark Barleys Saturday walk on the 16th November to Shining Tor in the Peak District. Thirteen members attended the walk which was very enjoyable. The weather proved much better as the day progressed after a somewhat bleak start. The views opened up as we got to Windgather Rocks. After a great break in the pub where Dave Gray discovered Wasabi beans the group enjoyed bright autumn sun for a walk along new paths to Lamaload Reservoir.

Dave Gray also send me the following updates of members activities from the same weekend :-

- Phil Don did a solo trip up Pen Yr Ole Wen and Carnedd Dafydd on Sunday, good weather with an inch of snow on top.
- Andy Chapman's latest Nepal expeditions were all successful with eight clients up Island Peak (Andy's 7th ascent), Lobju and Pokaldi. They had the best weather for years, just 30 minutes of snow on the whole trip.
- On Monday Christine Smyth, Nuala and I did a day trip to Horseshoe Pass, ascending Cynr y Brain and going back around the north side of the hill via Offa's Dyke path. We had a bracing day plus lots of fun throwing sticks for Mab the Dog.

Also Dave sent me this email with updates from just before he went to Berlin:-

Today we had a great walk on the Wirral organized by Jan Coates, there were 12 of us and we did a fine 10-mile circuit. There was new paths and ground for me, on a good sunny day with fine estuary views and also views to the snows of the Forest of Bowland. Wildlife highlight for me, Jan and Dave Chadwick was watching a kestrel hover from above on Cubbin's Green.

- Lin and Paul, Maurice and June out for 10 miles walk in Delamere
- Mike and Lin Gavin doing country walks on the flatlands of S Yorkshire
- Dave G on Simon's Seat and the Strid, and with his mate Bob on Round Hill and Beamsley Beacon, all in Wharfedale.

Thanks Dave ☺

I am not sure of the exact dates but Neil Metcalfe, Fiona Langton, Andy Odger and a cast of thousands (well another three Helen, Andy and Lesley) went a scrambling up the North Ridge of Tryfan. Twas cold apparently but good fun.



Geoff Brierley has been getting out a lot and is training hard with John Simpson to get below ten hours in the next Welsh 3000's. Hope you both manage it and if you do I'll get you both a Whisky (each ha ha).

Towards the end of November we had the first of a seemingly never ending deluge of rain of biblical proportions, Beth and I drove to Aber Falls to see how impressive they were – and they were !!! The following day we went up a

very wintry Snowdon via the Miners path, on the way up we noticed the way had become blocked by a huge boulder which had slid down the hillside to come to rest on the track between Llydaw and Glaslyn. One can only assume that this happened as a result of the recent rains. Once the Miners & PYG track converged crampons proved useful in the hard snow and frequent patches of ice and, for once, we enjoyed superb views from the summit.



The following day we drove round to Cwm Eigiau and walked up to the Foel Grach refuge in the Carneddau. Craig Yr Ysfa looked almost alpine and from 2000ft upwards the snow lay thick and firm. We only saw one other person the whole day and that was in the far distance.



The next club meet was Janet Coates Wirral walk :-

Wirral walk Sat 8th December 2012 - Janet Coates

12 walkers and 2 clean dogs set off from Irby Hill in beautiful sunshine on a still and warm morning, following days of heavy rain. We slogged through the woodland, splashed through Royden Park and ascended Thurstaston Hill to stand on the dry sandstone outcrop and admire the views of distant snow capped Bowland Hills and Snowdonia. Then we slithered down the footpath alongside the Dungeons sandstone gorge and squelched across Heswall Fields to reach the beach. Along the beach again in warm sunshine, a break for lunch at Cubbins Green, then along the Wirral Way to Ashton Park and, with a return to mud, up the footpath to Grange Hill monument. Then along the ridge we splashed through Stapledon Woods finally slipping and skidding through the park to return with 2 very muddy dogs. Total distance 9.99 miles.

The Christmas dinner was later that day and apparently it was sadly not as well attended as the previous years. It has been decided to seek an alternative venue for next year – details will be provided nearer the time but we are thinking of the Dee Hotel in West Kirby. It's handy for public transport and it's a Wetherspoons pub!!!!

On the 11th December Jim Metcalfe went for a decidedly wintry ascent of Moel Siabod, apparently he was the only soul on the hill – thanks for the pictures Jim ☺



CHRISTMAS AT THE CHAPEL:-

As is usual there were plenty of members and prospective members out at the chapel shortly after Christmas to see in the New Year and beyond.

Sadly there was also a nasty little bug doing the rounds which affected a fair number of people for the odd day here and there.

The weather really didn't help either with rain and strong winds most days but people did get out and walked the hills. One day the rainfall was so spectacular that the road outside Cobden's Hotel was flooded and the playground opposite the Tyn Y Coed was under a foot of water. Amongst the hills climbed were Moel Elio ridge by Beth and I one day and then by John Murphy, Christy Miles et al another day. What's amazing is that the ancient footbridge leading from the old ruin car park at the start of Moel Elio (towards telegraph alley) has been washed away by the recent heavy rain and one could discern a small landslip high up on Elio's flanks ! Neil Metcalfe, Fiona Langton, Andy Odger and Helen Smith went up from the Pen Y Gwryd Hotel to Carnedd Y Cribau – apparently a bit damp underfoot ! John Murphy and Christy Miles went to Y Garn in the Rhinogs and several people visited the lovely new(ish) Moel Siabod Cafe ☺

New Year was apparently a quiet affair though the fireworks in the Tyn Y Coed were quite good by all accounts.

After New Year most members went home though a few die-hards hung on in the hope of better weather which sadly never came☹. Beth and I tried to make the most of it anyway and managed a misty, damp walk up Moel Lefn and Moel Yr Ogof which lie midway between Moel Hebog and the Nantlle Ridge. Not a soul was seen all day. Another attempt to get a view was made a couple of days later when we left Tan Yr Allt at the far end of the Nantlle valley and made our way up to Craig Cwm Silyn, Garnedd Goch and Mynydd Graig Goch thus completing all the peaks on the Nantlle ridge for Beth ☺. Again though not a soul or view was seen all day and I even had to get the compass out to avoid walking round in circles!!

Amazingly the next day was dry and so we drove over to the Migneit moors and an obscure cliff called Carreg Y Foel Gron which would have been great had it not been dripping wet and greasy to say nothing of the hurricane (ok, slight exaggeration!!) force winds. We decided to pack away the climbing gear and walked up the nearest hill, Y Garnedd which amazingly we were able to see from the top of though a nuclear power station is not really an attractive aspect☹. The crags though are certainly worth a re-visit on a drier day as they look like offering some good routes on Moelwyn type rock.

The rest of the afternoon we frittered away looking at waterfalls (Rhaeder Y Cwm – very nice ☺) and pigging out in cafe's and bars ☺

STUFF FOR SALE:-

I have a pair of Rab Bergen Waterproof Pants, Mens size Small which are surplus to requirements they retail at £125.00 am selling them for £90.00 if anyone is interested. They are brand new in an unopened plastic wrapping. Would make a great Christmas present!!!

Please contact Christy Miles for more information.

A pair of Sz 9 (Euro 43) Vintage / Retro Scarpa Asolo (TV) walking boots with double leather tongue and good old fashioned construction (ie. not a drop of glue in sight !) as Vibram sole is screwed onto rest of boot. Very heavy and thus hard wearing. Excellent condition and hardly worn. Very stiff and slightly too small for me. I got them from a charity shop so a tenner (what they cost me btw !) and their yours ☺ Email me (allangwydyr@hotmail.co.uk) for details – I can leave at chapel if desired. They have had very little wear to be honest.



2017 – GWYDYR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Roger Hughes is thinking of organising a trip to the Himalayas and has one or two ideas of where to go that has an opportunity for both trekking and climbing. He has also kindly offered to manage a savings fund (similar to that used successfully on the 1992 Mera Peak trip) should there be sufficient take up amongst the membership. Hopefully Roger will be out in India early this year to do a sort of reconnaissance for us and hopefully an article may follow for inclusion in here to generate interest. I know it may seem a long way away but these things do have a knack for coming round rather quickly and given the present economic climate a savings fund may prove useful for many of us. Let me know your thoughts and I will pass them onto Roger.

Also any more ideas / suggestions as to what we, as a club, can do by way of a celebration please let the committee know asap – thanks ☺

LOST PROPERTY AT THE CHAPEL:-

There has been a remarkable amount of lost or discarded property at the chapel of late, a list is below and I've put it all in the loft above the ladies toilets.

Gap woollen jumper (Grey) Large

Large Grey & Black base-layer (Aldi – I think)

Green belt

Reading glasses in case

Philips electric toothbrush in case

Grey toilet bag and toiletries

Nike balaclava

Swimming goggles !!!

Lots of Tupperware containers in a Tesco hessian bag

CHAPEL WORKS:-

As you all know there is an SGM (probably taken place by the time you've read this far !) with regard to a partial re-wire of the chapel electrical installations. All being well we hope to have these work completed by early March 2013. However we do have a problem in relation to the gas fire in the chapel lounge. Essentially it will be condemned at the next gas safety inspection which will be in December this year (2013). The old fire has served us well and a replacement fire is being sought however given the expenditure incurred I feel it is right to have the debate now as to what we should replace the fire with. There are essentially two options, a replacement gas fire or a multi fuel / wood-burning stove. There are many pro's and con's for both but for the purpose of debate what would members like to see the committee do. Please feel free to email me your thoughts and ideas and we will discuss at the next, and probably a few more, committee meetings.

BANFF UK MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL

I organised this last year and it was a great success though I did manage to fall asleep apparently during the best film, have a look at the links below anyway :-



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THIS YEAR'S FILM PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED!

Over 350 films were submitted to the Banff Mountain Film Festival this year. We've scouted the best of the best films and after many long hours of discussion and debate here at Banff HQ we have finalised the films that will feature at each screening. Rest assured, you're in for one hell of a ride with some amazing films that will take you across the globe with some unforgettable adventurers!

The Tour kicks off on 25 January, heading to more locations than ever before. Book early so you don't miss out! [Click Here](#) to discover the films that will feature at your location.

Book Now

2013 TOUR TRAILER RELEASED

The 2013 Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour is now available! [Watch it now](#) and be prepared for the exploration, adventure and breathtaking footage that you are set to experience through a 2013 screening!

WOULD YOU LIKE AN iPad 2?

To be in with a chance to score yourself an iPad 2 16GB, simply complete our survey with just 5 quick questions about whether you're into snow sports and what films you like watching at a Banff screening. This will help us make the Banff Tour even better. If the link didn't work for you last time, [Click Here](#) to try it now!

The prize giveaway is thanks to our friends at Travel Alberta. Discover your own Alberta adventure at

<http://click.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=42745366&msgid=703354&act=GYO8&c=1058396&destination=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.travelalberta.com>

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FORTHCOMING MEETS:-

Save as for mentioned above about Dave Grays Saturday walk the next club meet is the Burns Night party at the chapel on the 25th / 26th January 2013. I am not sure how many spaces are available for this cracking event so best to speak to Chris Harris who has kindly organised.