



CLWB MYNYDDA GOGLEDD CYMRU THE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF NORTH WALES

Volume 64

Issue 1

Change but no change

Well the past couple of years may have seen us alter many aspects of our lives but the mountains take a little longer to change. The rocks which form the Carneddau mostly originated in the Ordovician period between 500 and 440 million years ago. It's been about 10,000 years since the ice sheets retreated and the smooth summits and screes reappeared, and the moraines created the shallow lakes in the cwms.



The Darwin wall, which is located in front of the Ogwen centre below Cwm Idwal, provides a geological record of Charles Darwin's 1831 journey across Snowdonia. His journey took him up Nant Ffrancon to Ogwen, around Cwm Idwal then on via Capel Curig to Ffestiniog and across the Rhinogydd to the coast, finishing at Barmouth. Exact details of

the entire route are not available, but the rocks in the Wall represent those he crossed, passed close to and, in some cases, examined.

I personally find that the formations of our local ranges intrigue and amaze me. Seeing the places where the strata is vertical indicating the geological forces which have been acting on the rocks over millions of years. The problem is that I know very little about what I am looking at. Therefore, I would like to know if anyone in the club would be up for coming out during a meet and talking to us about our geological environment.



Neil Weatherley

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Annual General Meeting

Save the date

19th March 2022 @ 18:00

Gwynant Room, Plas y Brenin and online via zoom

You are cordially invited to attend the MCNW 2022 AGM which is planned to be held at Plas y Brenin in the old library with an option to join via zoom. This is your opportunity to hear what has been happening in the last year and influence the future of the club in the coming years.

This year a proposal to revise our constitution and club rules will be presented for approval and we really need as many people as possible to support this change.

With this in mind we shall be circulating the proposed document to everyone in the club in the next couple of weeks so we can gather everyone's input and make sure that views of the membership are included.

My introduction to the MCNW

One day back in 2004 my sister said to me, "Would you like to do the three peaks challenge with Rod" (my brother in law). Their daughter suffered from neurofibromatosis and they wanted to raise funds to help research this condition. Well like a fool I said yes. I had never done anything like this before, a little five-a-side football and I went to the gym a couple of times a week. But I was skinny, pretty robust and well, obviously up for a challenge.

I told a friend at work, Pete Cartwright, and he told me about the club and invited me up for a weekend. My memory is a little vague here, but I believe we got the train up as we both had free rail travel and

we were picked up by Jean Roscoe who took us down to the hut. I didn't know these places existed but then why would I? I lived in Kent and worked in London and there are not many mountains in either place. In fact, in my home town, there is a quiz team called the New Romney Mountain Rescue. About the biggest mountain on the Romney Marsh is a mole hill. Anyway, I fell in love with the hut on first sight. We had a short walk around Llyn Idwal to stretch our legs after the long train journey. I can honestly say this is one of my most favourite places on earth and each time I take someone new to the hut, I always show them Idwal.

The following day Pete and I set off up to the Glyders. We went up Cwm Bochclwd and turned left at the top towards Capel Curig. It was a typical day on top, damp, a little misty, the ground under foot was that now familiar, wet mossy growth which felt like walking on wet sponges. Pete gave me some lessons in reading a map. I had done it years before in the scouts and air cadets but nothing on the top of the Glyders looked anything like I had ever come across before. Pete also had a GPS which was telling us to go one way, but the compass told us another. Pete said, "always trust your compass". That reminds me of another trip years later up the Cheviot hills but that's another story – yes I got lost – maybe next time.

The walk down into Capel Curig was glorious, the sun came out and after fine views of the hut across the valley, we approached the village and the Tyn-y-Coed pub arriving 7 ½ hours after we had first set out. This was before the pub had gone up market, so boots off in the fire place to dry out and bangers and mash followed by too many beers. If I had known we still had to walk to the hut after, I may not have had the third pint! Anyway fully sated, Pete told me we had to walk to the hut "but it wasn't



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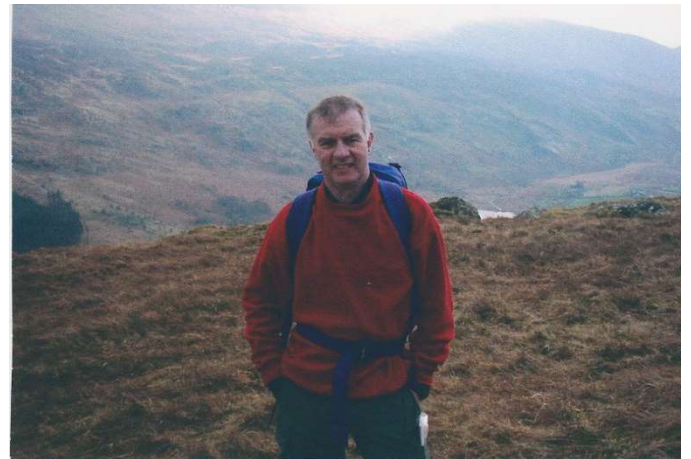
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too far”.....he was telling porkies. That walk along the road just about finished me off. Every time a car passed, I shone my little police issue torch to the ground hoping they would see me and use the road and not the poor excuse for a footpath. I must have got over it as I went back a couple of times over the next few years.



I retired six years later and at Pete’s suggestion I joined the club. Then again about 5 years after that Pete suggested me as a potential treasurer. Did I call Pete in the paragraph above my friend, he has a lot to answer for! To get my revenge (sorry Pete) I have found two old photographs from that weekend.

Its funny the paths our lives take. A simple question from my sister and I have since done the three peaks, Hadrians Wall, Offah’s dyke, The Cheviots twice, the Cotswolds and numerous local walks around the beautiful countryside of Kent and Sussex. I have lost count of the many trips to the hut over the years I have met some truly lovely people. As my friend Jim always says to me, you have got to keep doing it all the time you can, once you stop, you stop!



Terry Reene

A Mammoth Experience In The Shropshire Hills 2nd April

Thought this may be of interest to club members it is held in the heart of the Shropshire Hills there are three events:

- Mammathon 50 miles in 12 hrs
- Marathon 26 miles in 6 hrs
- Half marathon in 3 hrs.

It starts from The Visitors Centre in Craven Arms there are check points along the route for food/drink (myself and Kate run one of the check points).

For 2022, we will be hosting the flagship SW80K- 50 miles in 24 hours; the Mammothon- a full-distance



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trail marathon with a generous 12-hour time limit; and the Half-Mammoth, 13 miles with a 6-hour limit. Entry fees include great local food & drink, first-aid services, a rescue vehicle, trackers for the two longer events, a certificate of achievement and an SW80K Festival memento. All the events have a fun and friendly atmosphere and are enjoyed by everyone from the hardcore ultra-runners gunning for a course record to walkers just trying to complete within the time.

The festival is a fundraiser for Grow Cook Learn, the charity which operates the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, and all money raised will be used to support the charity's goals. This year, we hope to develop a wetland area in our meadows, with an accessible bird hide so that people of all abilities can learn about their local wildlife.

All the routes are hilly so don't expect to smash your PB, but they will take you over some of the iconic Shropshire Hills summits and iron-age hillforts, along ancient drovers' routes and through magnificent woodland and delightful market towns. If you haven't discovered this fascinating and beautiful landscape yet, you're in for a treat!

Our charity's mission is to connect people to the food, history and landscape of the Shropshire Hills and so we provide a quality choice of local food at our checkpoints. You can sample Shropshire Fidget Pies, a beef stew served in a barn high in the hills, local cheeses and sausages as well as our famous Bara Brith. For SW80K'ers, there's a breakfast at the end too! If you're veggie or vegan, you needn't worry- you will be served equally well whatever your dietary needs.

What better way could there be to explore what the area has to offer than to walk or run through its enchanting landscape whilst tasting its wonderful food heritage?

www.sientries.co.uk/event.php?event_id=8762

www.shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.

Working Weekend

Our hut and the path needs regular upkeep and this year Terry Hefferman is planning a working weekend with some time out in the mountains on the 23-24 July. Please do try to come and give a little back to this wonderful place.

Dates	Coordinator	Location
22-23 Jan	Angie Polkey	Tal y braich
19-20 Feb	Neil Weatherley	Tal y braich
19-Mar	AGM at Plas y brenin	
19-20 Mar	Neil Weatherley	Tal y braich
15-18 Apr	TBC	Tal y braich
21-28 Apr	Paul Newbould	Mull
21-22 May	Georgie Weatherley	Tal y braich
Jun	Ed Walker	Climbing
23-24 Jul	Terry Hefferman	Tal y braich. Working weekend
27-29 Aug	Georgie & Ed	Tal y braich
17-18 Sep	Paul Newbould	Tal y braich
22-23 Oct	Neil Weatherley	Tal y braich
19-20 Nov	Angie Polkey	Tal y braich