

# Surrey Scout & Guide Mountaineering Club



## Newsletter

Spring 2016

### Y Garn, Groups & Goulash

The January 2016 weekend started with the, by now, traditional 'take-away' curry eaten in the Dougie as we gathered on the Friday evening. Our long serving SSGMC members assure me The Douglas Arms hasn't changed in all the years we have been going to Bethesda. The landlady is kind enough to allow us to eat a take-away in the pub – provided we continue to buy her beer. We duly obliged!

In the morning after an overnight fall of snow two groups set off on a route from Llyn Ogwen taking in Y Garn and the Glyders. Peter led a group in a clockwise direction setting off down the road towards Tryfan whilst Paul led the other group in the opposite direction. Climbing from



Llyn Idwal the latter group soon encountered icy conditions underfoot before reaching the snow covered eastern slope of Y Garn. It was slow going in the conditions but when we reached the peak we were rewarded with great

views in all directions. Due to the bitterly cold strong winds we did not loiter and pressed on towards the Glyders.

We had the benefit of the icy wind on our backs but it was still tough going later finding a sheltered spot on the leeward side of Glyder Fawr to grab a quick lunch. As we were about to move off Peter's group, who weren't

enjoying the benefit of our tailwind, approached from the opposite direction. A few words of mutual encouragement and we were off again – Peter's group headed for Y Garn - we headed towards the obligatory photo opportunity standing (or trying to stand in the wind) on the cantilever stone on Glyder Fach.



Jo braved the steep icy descent from Glyder Fach on the scree slope whilst our knees benefited from James' knowledge of a more genteel route before meeting up again at the wall before heading towards Llyn Bochlwyd and the cars. We made it back not long before being joined by Peter's group.

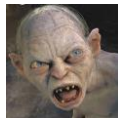
That evening we were joined by Ron Sparks and Bob Lewis for a fantastic home cooked goulash. Thanks Greta. It was really great to spend some time with Ron who travelled all the way from his winter moorings even though he was not in the best of health. Get well soon Ron.

On Sunday after a hearty breakfast and packing, the majority travelled to Betws-y Coed where we walked up and around the reservoir to the south of the town enjoying quieter conditions than the previous day. It was then into the cars and heading for home after another fantastic SSGMC weekend with great people.

## Low Level Walk

On hearing about strong winds and icy conditions on the tops, four of us decided to do a low level- but lengthy! - walk on the Saturday. We drove to Capel Curig and parked the car. We walked uphill on open ground at first and then into forest on good tracks and paths- passing babbling streams which were high due to the recent heavy rainfall. We passed several attractive reservoirs and the scenery was really picturesque.

We had elevenses sitting in the sunshine and decided to keep our options open for the rest of the day- depending on our progress and how we were feeling! We walked through a mixture of farmland and forest and going downhill at one point the foliage and caves in the rocks made us think we could be on the set for Lord Of The Rings and that any second Gollum would appear!



We then found a nice spot for lunch with views over to Llanrwist and the River Conwy- which had burst its banks and flooded the surrounding fields. We carried on into Trefriw and asked some directions from a keen mountain biker for the best route for the next section of the walk as there seemed to be more than one option.

We now had a fairly steep climb through woods and we met a dad with his two little boys who warned us to look out for the hail dragons! Then we had a real hailstorm! So hoods up and heads down! After a while we began to wonder exactly where we were on the map! It all seemed rather confusing! We climbed a really steep hill hoping that we would find our path at the top but sadly no!



As it was getting dusk we decided to head pretty much straight as the crow flies towards distant car head lights on the A5. We knew from our compass bearing that Capel Curig wasn't far! The last 45 minutes or so was hard work over very rough ground and battling with gorse bushes and barbed wire fences! There was also a meandering stream which was very deep and we seemed to keep crossing it! We eventually reached the road and got back to the car! What a relief!! Back at base we worked out that we had walked a very commendable 22kms!! There were then celebrations! (with a large G AND T!!)

Claire Cane

## Christmas Walk & Lunch Sunday 6th December 2015

The start (and finish!) of our Christmas walk was at The Stepping Stones pub at Westhumble. It turned out to be very handy that Box Hill station was a 5 minute walk from the start point and several of us made the decision to use the train so we could enjoy a festive glass or two! In fact a few cheeky people popped into the pub for a swift glass to get themselves warmed up for the walk!

24 of us set off up Crabtree Lane and we were soon in Chapel Woods. It was a bit of a climb at first but pleasant surroundings and luckily fine dry weather. The climb took us on through Dorking Woods and out onto Ranmore Common by the church. We then walked along the road for a short while before joining the North Downs Way running along the top of Denbies Vineyard.

With splendid views of Box Hill and even as far as the South Downs we had a leisurely downhill stroll for the last mile and eventually back to the pub. The walk was just over 4 miles — perfect to get up a good appetite!

Footwear was changed and Christmas hats and other festive accessories were donned! There were 27 of us for lunch and we had a dining room to ourselves which worked really well. It was a good opportunity to catch up with everyone and have a good old chat!

All in all it was a lovely day and the plans for this year's venue and walk are already underway!

## Spring Day Walk Reminder

**Date:** Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**Start:** 10.30am Wray Lane car park, Reigate Hill, TQ 263523.

**Refreshments:** Cafe at Wray Lane car park, and The Yew Tree pub, Reigate Hill

# 2017

Your committee is considering various options to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the SSGMC.

They will be in contact soon to consult with all members.