

# Surrey Scout & Guide Mountaineering Club



## Newsletter

Autumn 2015

### A Weekend at The Red Lion, Brecon

by Peter Browning

It was a cold evening in January 2015 when we arrived at the Red Lion. It was a former public house but now a Youth Hostel at the foot of the Black Mountains in Llanddeusant, South Wales. Nineteen of us in total had made the journey up from Surrey ready for a walking weekend. Spaghetti Bolognese and lashings of beer was the order of the evening. The clearing sky offered views of the stars and moon and the base offered a large telescope to use. Shaking with cold we were unable to steady the view and soon gave up the game in favour of more booze indoors. A cold crisp Saturday morning with patchy blue skies and snow topped mountains was our reward for the previous night's journey. We set off in two groups, Jill took a group of seven up to the summit of Bannau sir Gaer (677m) while Pete took the remaining 12 on a longer trek in the snow. After a mile or so of leaving the base we found the Beacon Way path and followed this up the mountain and into the snow line and up to the shore of Llyn Y Fan Fach. Fresh snowfall had covered the ground and then frozen leaving the surface crisp but delicate and the hollows and holes were full of drifted snow which were quite deep and challenging. The path we

wanted was nowhere to be seen under this glistening white blanket so we made our own and carried on. We skirted round the foot of the towering escarpment in front of us and kicked steps in the snow for the 2 or 3 miles round to Pant Y Bwlch, Gwely llan y Rhiw, then onto Gwal Y Cadno before arriving at the banks of Llyn Y Fan Fawr. We decided on having lunch here and sat in the sunshine sheltered from the gusting wind. A short steep climb and more snow steps later we got to the ridge of the escarpment at Bwlch Gledd and a short distance later we reached the summit of Fan Brycheiniog (802m).



The wind on the top was blowing a proper hooley and walking in anything like a straight line was really quite a challenge. We made it to Fan Foel (781m) and then followed the ridge round, down and then back up to Picws Du (749m). It was too cold to stand

still, too windy to walk straight and any exposed skin was being obliterated by airborne ice particles and swirling snow. We continued around the ridge Bannau Sir Gaer and caught sightings of the Llyn Y Fan Fach reservoir some 250m below us. We rounded the last part of the ridge and started our descent down out of the snow line and finally out of the blast of the freezing wind. Into the valley and through some trees we found the road and retraced our steps of that morning back to the base. 12miles done, a good day out. The evening was Beer, Beef Goulash and rice, Banoffee pie, then the cheese, more beer, some wine and a splash of port later it was time for bed.



Breakfast on Sunday was followed by a 5.5 mile low level walk through the snow fields and across a

few fords. Back to the base for lunch, pack the cars and head for home. Thanks all for a great weekend.



**SSGMC Committee 2015  
Who's Who**

<b>Chairman:</b>	<b>Maggie Apted</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Jill Evans</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Judy Morris</b>
<b>Members:</b>	<b>Clifford Smith Claire Cane Greta Carpenter Kevin Betts Debbie Castleman Phil Cox James Dunham</b>

**16th – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2015  
Meet**

**Swaledale**

We are staying at Low Row Bunk Barn West. You'll need to bring sleeping bag & pillow case, but don't need plates etc. Accommodation should cost around £25 + food breakfast and dinner – bring your own lunches and drinks). Any offers to help with the Saturday dinner? It will be good to try and minimise transport costs, so please let me know when you will be travelling, and if you can offer places, or if you need a lift. I'll be going up on the Friday morning.

For Friday evening, the nearest eatery is The Punch Bowl, Low Row (food 6pm – 9pm) – 1.6 miles away (<http://punchbowl-swaledale.co.uk/mirror-menu/>). It looks like the menu changes regularly. Otherwise there's a variety of eating places in Reeth (2.6 miles away). Please let me know if you will be eating on the Friday evening so I can make the appropriate restaurant booking.

Clifford Smith - [cvsmith@sky.com](mailto:cvsmith@sky.com)

**Communications**

We now have a Google Group called 'Surrey Scout & Guide Mountaineering Club' which will allow all members to receive emails (and newsletters) posted by any member of the SSGMC. It is a closed group so only SSGMC members can post emails.



To post to this group, send an email to [SSGMC@googlegroups.com](mailto:SSGMC@googlegroups.com).

We also have a website (under construction) at <http://www.ssgmc.uk>. Please take a look and any feedback will be welcome.