

# Shrewsbury Hillwalking Club

## Newsletter December 2015

As we approach the end of the year it seems appropriate to think back over all the walks we have done as a Club during the last 12 months. Thank you very much to all the walk leaders who give time and attention to providing challenging and interesting walks.

We recently held the AGM - thank you to those who took the trouble to attend; your support is appreciated. All of the Committee were willing to stand for another year but would welcome any involvement by other members.

During the meeting it was agreed subscription rates would remain the same (except for those joining as a couple where the rate would rise by £1.00). With present fuel prices remaining low the charge for mileage costs will remain the same although a minimum charge of £2.00 will come in to being. Membership fees are due on 1st January 2016 and our Treasurer, Jane, will be thrilled to receive your subscriptions as soon as possible.

As a Club we are indebted to all those who offer to drive other members to and from walks. Keeping the number of cars we take to a minimum is beneficial to the environment and makes for easier car parking. Please do try and 'take your turn' at offering to drive - some of the walks are not very far away in terms of distance and/or mainly use major roads - so, if a long distance drive doesn't appeal, an offer to drive on the 'closer to home' journeys would be much appreciated.

At the recent Planning Meeting we were able to draw up another very varied programme of walks for the first half of 2016. The provisional list has been put on the website, by John. At the time of writing there is just one free date (1<sup>st</sup> May) so, if you haven't yet led a walk, this could be your chance. Support from other leaders and Committee members can be given and some travel costs incurred (whilst doing the recces) can be claimed.

If you need to know more details of the walks and events, the website, and our Facebook page, are frequently updated and information is regularly sent to the Shrewsbury Chronicle. There is a list of 'phone numbers for the walk leaders if you want to make direct contact.

Hopefully, you have all been able to make use of the Discount cards which Gill put in place for High Sports, on Wyle Cop and Cotswold Outdoors. Maybe in the run up to Christmas they can be put to even better use!!!

On the Sunday before Christmas (Dec 20th) you are all welcome to attend a walk which starts from Little Ness and takes in the delights of Nesscliffe Hill, Valeswood and the Cliffe before returning to Carol and Tony's house to enjoy some festive savouries and treats.

In January we will have our Seasonal Social. Geraldine will let us know the full details for that very soon. It will be good to have something to look forward to once all the fuss of Christmas has disappeared.

During the past year some of our members have been very active with their own projects. Well done to Bill, Mike and Shirley for achieving a very successful Tour de Mont Blanc. Also, John Vose who succeeded in his challenge of walking a section of the GR5 from the Alps to the Med.



Well done to everyone for all you have achieved during 2015 and very best wishes for Christmas.



Overleaf there's a short article by Dave Peters on a walk undertaken by the Club in the Snowdonia National Park.

## The Crimpiau and the Creigiau Gleision

By and large, this walk in Snowdonia had it all: craggy hill tops, lakes, boggy areas and mostly fine weather. As an added bonus, these areas of the Carneddau do not attract crowds as people tend to aim for the high summits of the Carneddau; far fewer bother with the Creigiau Gleision where the highest point is just 678m above sea level.

Starting from Capel Curig we walked up onto the hill slopes and entered a wide valley formed by the Crimpiau on the left and a tract of higher ground on the right. At the head of this valley you look northwards to Llyn Crafnant and then, as we climbed Crimpiau, the path we followed made a U-turn to give us a southerly view for a short time. Having gained the height of Crimpiau, there came a sharp drop down into a valley before heading to the ridge which leads to Creigiau Gleision.

Climbing up from the dip was also sharp but at least the views increased. There are three or four mini-summits which include Craig Wen, Craiglwyn and Craig Luid which is the highest of the Creigiau. From here we were able to see Llyn Crafnant on the right and Llyn Cowlyd Reservoir on the left. Looking northwards it was possible to see Llandudno and the Great Orme, while to the south many of the peaks of North Wales could be seen.

Beyond the Creigiau we walked down onto boggy ground to reach the North End of Llyn Cowlyd. With the hard rock that abounds it need hardly be said that any walk in Snowdonia is liable to involve boggy territory! After reaching the west side of Cowlyd reservoir we used a well-defined path to the head of the valley at the southern end where the views included a full frontal view of Tryfan and the Glyders and, over to our right, the Nant Ffrancon Valley with a glimpse of Llyn Ogwen. From here, back, the route was consistently downhill and Capel Curig was regained in the fading light.

