

Shrewsbury Hillwalking Club Newsletter

Spring 2016

The Club has started the year well with good attendance on all of the walks. It's good to know members are not letting a little bit of mud or poor weather put them off! No doubt we are all looking forward to the possibility of it becoming drier underfoot!!

Club Dinner

The Club dinner at Cromwells was well attended and enjoyed by all. We were glad to have one of our longest serving members, Mac, and his wife Marian in attendance and also Kay one of our newest 'recruits'. Thank you to Gez for organising the meal.

Discounts

Club members are making use of discounts at Cotswold Outdoors and High Sports, Wyle Cop. The Outdoor Depot in Church Stretton supports us by displaying details of our walks to prospective new members; presently unable to give discount, they do have a range of excellent products.

Committee Meeting

A meeting was held recently to discuss a couple of matters:

- ❖ **Grade D walks:** As no walks have been offered at this level for a considerable time it was decided the grade was obsolete and walks in this category will no longer be offered. The grading of walks in general was discussed and agreed that they should remain the same.
- ❖ **Rule 6:** The Committee was asked by a Club member to consider the wording of this rule. The member felt that it was unworkable and unenforceable and, as such, could not be a valid rule. Concerns were raised by this person that by its lack of application it brings into question the validity of other rules and the safety of the walking group as a whole.

After MUCH discussion it was agreed to re-word Rule 6 which now reads "Everyone is expected to keep together throughout the walk. Under no circumstances should anyone leave without informing the leader and agreeing a safe route".

So, as has always been the case, Club members are expected to remain in contact with the group and its leader, walk with consideration for their fellow walkers and to respect the leader and allow him/her to lead the group. For anybody concerned about this change, the notes for leaders on the website explains that a walk leader is able, should he/she so wish, to ask that walkers should not go ahead if the route or conditions dictate and/or nominate a 'back marker'.

Planning Meeting

The Planning meeting for the July to December programme will be held on **May 25th** at **Reabrook Sports & Social Club**. This notice allows time for people to consider leading a walk. The best approach is to have a couple of dates available when you are free to lead a walk and

knowledge of an area in which you want to walk. The details of times and routes can be confirmed later in the year. Committee members or other experienced walk leaders would be glad to offer any help to prospective new leaders in these matters. We are very fortunate to have many willing leaders who give of their time.

Facebook

There is a page on Facebook dedicated to the Shrewsbury Hillwalking Club where you are able to view 'photos taken during some of the walks and read comments about the walks. This is a fairly active site which can also bring in links to other walking events in the area and keep you updated about the Club. Don't forget our own website www.shrewswalk.co.uk where further details of the programmed walks are available.

Electronic Communication!

Recently we had to make a late decision on the start time of a walk. It would be prudent for members to check the website, e-mails or the Shrewsbury Hillwalking Club Facebook page for any such changes the day before a walk. Very occasionally a change is made on the Sunday when we would rely on mobile 'phones to inform those who had made pre-arranged alternative travel.

Walk report by Dave Peters: MOEL ARTHUR

While Wales has many areas of sharp sided hills, screes and boulders, the Clwydian Hills are one of the more gentle areas of the country, with rounded hills and greens and browns, comparable in some ways to Herefordshire and Radnorshire. Last Sunday's walk began at Coed Llangwyfan car park, just a few miles to the west of Mold and went up into the main part of the Clwydian range. After some time we came onto a smooth sided ridge with great views of the surrounding area forwards to the Vale of Clwyd and behind us towards Cheshire. The Vale of Clwyd is remarkable in itself as it must be one of the widest, if not the widest, U-shaped valley in a country where the valleys are mostly V-shaped. North along the Vale you are looking at Rhyl and the Irish Sea and there is a cluster of wind turbines out at sea. We then started walking south, going much lower down but still a long way short of the valley floor, weaving in and out of lanes and meadows, and then swung east to get back to the higher ground. It was late on in the walk that we came to Moel Arthur, the highest point in the walk, and a very smooth-sided dome (one starts to speculate on what natural process could carve it so neatly - what kind of glacier did this?). The walk ended not far from this - it's one of those when you get the full panorama right at the end - but in line with March weather we experienced many episodes in the space of six hours with some heavy rain in the morning, the threat of a storm which turned out to be nothing worse than a few drops of rain, a mild spring-like period then sleet. It has to be admitted that we did not actually make the summit of Moel Arthur as the wind and sleet were at their worst and we decided we'd seen the best of the views anyway. No doubt Moel Arthur will appear on the programme again, and hopefully on a day when we are not disturbed by Storm Katy (who allocates the names to these storms?)