

Sternians Mountaineering Club Report 2012

The current SMC officers are Hugh Podger (President), Gordon Pitt (Chairman), Peter Everall (Secretary) and David Minnikin (Treasurer and Meet Secretary). Please contact the latter for details of meets (d.e.minnikin@bham.ac.uk or Jacky Garth, Blease Road, Threlkeld, Cumbria CA12 4RX; 017687 79164).

Spring Meet - Neuadd Las, Tregaron, Ceridigion: 13-16 April 2012

The Party: Hugh Podger, Charles and Gill Lawrence, Tony and Liz Barry, Peter and Liz Everall, Marion Turner and David Minnikin.

On a damp Saturday, the hills adjacent to Cwm Berwyn were explored. The minor road to Brynhownant Farm was taken through the fields up onto the open moor and its summit at Y Drum for lunch in pleasant sunshine. A vehicle track was followed westwards, eventually leading down to Pantshiri cottage. Below the cottage, the party divided. Hugh, David and the Barrys followed the road into Tregaron for refreshment before returning to Neuadd Las and the Grand National. Peter, Marion and the Lawrences descended to the valley and followed the paths on the southern side, via Bane Tan-yr-alt, back to Tregaron and home.

On a fine Sunday morning, cars were parked at the road end by Maeslwad and the tracks followed to Bwlchyddwyallt, where friendly farmers pointed the way to the hill. A convoluted route via the Blaengorffen ruin and the Nant Gorflen valley brought us to the summit of Garn Gron. Magnificent all-round views to Yr Eifel (The Rivals), Cader Idris, The Arrans, Black Mountains and Brecon Beacons were enjoyed. After lunch, Peter, Gill, Marion and David headed westwards over the hills to Y Bryn, down to Blaengorffen and back to the car. Tony, Hugh, Charles and Liz, planning to retrace the upward route, gravitated northwards and had to be rescued from near Hafod-rhyd. This was new area for the Club, but there fine views over the Cambrian mountains and the fabled adjacent bog of Cors Caron.

Autumn Meet - East Barn, Malham, North Yorkshire: 30 September – 4 October 2012

The Party Hugh Podger, Gordon Pitt, Peter & Liz Everall, Charles & Gill Lawrence, Mike & M Beckley, Marion Turner & David Minnikin. Roderick Fell paid a visit on Saturday and Harriet & Rob Fraser joined us on Sunday.

All except Liz and Mike walked down to Malham and followed the westerly lanes up to Field Barns and Burns Barn. A track across the fields lead to Hoover Edge and the pass between Pikedaw Hill and Kirby Fell, eventually arriving at Nappa Cross for lunch. Hugh and Gordon elected to follow the Fair Sleats Bridleway down to the Cove Road and Malham. Gordon then visited Gordale Scar to assess the extent of local hydration, the verdict being that it was extensive. The Pennine Bridleway was taken by the main party down to Langscar Gate. After crossing the road, the track was followed to the shores of Malham Tarn. The high route was taken under Prior Rakes and through Trougate to just above Malham Cove. Charles and M descended to the limestone pavement above the cove and then down the valley to Malham. The

residual members proceeded down the road through Malham Rakes to East Barn. Mike made a solitary trip to Malham Cove.

A dismal Sunday forecast, amply fulfilled, dictated a variety of activities. David, Mike and Liz remained in residence. Harriet and Rob Fraser arrived for coffee and joined Hugh, Gordon, Charles and Gill, M and Peter in a reconnaissance expedition to Goredale Scar. The impressive brooding overhanging cliffs, with ash and yew trees perched on clinging ledges, were admired. The Scar itself was a raging torrent so a strategic retreat was dictated. The pretty woody glade past Janet's Fosse waterfall afforded some shelter before a good soaking was endured on the way back to the house and welcome soup. In the afternoon Marion & M perambulated down the Pennine Way and swung easterly to Janet's Foss. After inspecting Goredale Scar, the path across towards Malham Cove was taken as far as the road. The steep descent enabled a direct route to East Barn to be achieved. Gordon, Gill and Charles Lawrence motored to Keighley to visit East Riddlesden Hall.

In 2013, meets have been arranged at Nant y Ddwylan, Rosebush, Pembrokeshire (7 nights from Friday 3rd May) and Esk View, Boot, Eskdale, Cumbria (7 nights from Friday 27th September).

David Minnikin 0910 (1959 Sutton)



Party at Tregaron

Back: David Minnikin, Charles Lawrence

Middle: Tony Barry, Marion Turner, Gill Lawrence, Peter Everall

Front: Liz Barry, Hugh Podger, Liz Everall



Party at Malham

Back: Harriet Fraser (nee Podger), Hugh Podger, Gordon Pitt, Charles Lawrence, David Minnikin, Marion Turner

Front: Rob Fraser, Liz & Peter Everall, M Beckley, Gill Lawrence, Mike Beckley