

SEPTEMBER 2025



From the outgoing Editor

Well after seven years and over 40 issues I've felt it's time to hand over to someone new. The new editor is now officially revealed although the grapevine may have informed you earlier ! Thanks to Jan for agreeing to take on the responsibility for compiling and producing the newsletter for the foreseeable future.

Thank you also to all those members who have supplied meet reports, tales of personal adventures, photographs etc. for publication during my time as editor. I hope I've done them justice. The newsletter is only as good as the content you send in so don't let it dry up. With a full programme of meets there's still much to write about. Good luck to Jan with the task.

Graham Daly

From the incoming Editor, Jan Campbell.

After a certain amount of nagging, nay 'bullying', from our illustrious chairman, Mike Blakemore, I finally agreed to edit the newsletter for a couple of years. Mike thought I would need something to do to fill the gap after my years as SMC Secretary. Little did I know the level of IT skills required so I am on a steep learning curve.

The newsletter will continue to serve as the basis of our Club archive and to provide articles about past and upcoming meets and I plan for the member's profile page to become a more regular feature as well as an 'archive spot' for an old photo for you to laugh at.



This issue will cover:

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Cover photo:

On Pen y Castell in the Eastern Carneddau on the day meet in August.

From left to right: Julie T, Lee, David J, Graham D and Tracy.

For meet report please see pages 4 and 5

Photo: Miles Tight, 3rd August 2025

Deadline for the next newsletter is 10th November 2025. Any photographs should be a separate JPEG.

Sunday 20th July 2025

The Moel Siabod walk that wasn't !



From left to right: Ken, Maud, Barbara and Tom. Photo: Tracy.

As thunderstorms and bad visibility were forecast in Snowdonia, a five strong group decision was made to do something more local and low level.

Tom, Barbara and Maud joined Ken and myself on a circular walk of the Llangollen Panorama and Escarpment. We had rain and thunder but also some lovely views.

Thoroughly enjoyable and the right decision. Thanks for your company.

Tracy Whyte (via Facebook)

Sunday 3rd August 2025

The Eastern Carneddau

Six brave souls (Tracy, Lee, Graham D, David, Julie and myself) arrived at the start point in Cwm Eigiau in heavy rain and strong winds. This weather continued pretty much until after our lunch stop in the shelter near the summit of Foel Grach (scene of the club's February bivvy). By this time we were all rather damp having walked across bogs (unusual for this summer) in Pant y Griafolen and through a lot of long grass. We stopped briefly at the bothy just under the Dulyn reservoir and admired the chair tower stacking abilities of the previous occupants. The reservoir itself was very low due to works taking place and it was possible to see a propeller and other remains of a crashed aircraft (Graham D. has provided further details of the story behind this crash on the club Facebook page).



Walking across the bogs of Pant y Griafolen



The bothy near the Dulyn reservoir



The macabre remains of the crashed Dakota aircraft which flew into a nearby cliff in 1944

Photos: Editor

From the reservoir it was a steep and trackless pull up to the summit of Foel Grach. From here the weather started to improve and we continued along the Carnedd ridge taking in the summits of Carnedd Gwennllian, Foel Fras and Drum. We were treated to a distant sighting of the Isle of Man with the peak of Snaefell quite clearly visible, which given the distance is probably quite unusual.



The going gets tough above the Dulyn reservoir

Photo: Miles

Our final summit of the day was Pen y Castell, where we felt the need to trek across to a couple of possible highest points before finally concluding that the first was most likely the highest as the map said all along! From here it was a gentle walk back down to the start point.

Miles Tight

Sunday 17th August 2025

Arans

With not a great deal of planning I coordinated a meet which had Aran Fawddwy pencilled in, and which I picked up at the last minute as the original meet coordinator was unavailable. My previous attempt at leading a walk in the Arans had failed (I had to hand it over after standing on a nail the day before!) so it was only fitting that I took over this time.

Perhaps the threat of a scorching day or just the time of year made for a low turnout, with just Mike Creese, Chris Wood and myself present. With time to spare and some rumbling stomachs, we decided to stop for a coffee and some very nice cakes at a café spotted in Dinas Mawddwy. We then set off for our walk starting point of Cwm Cywarch car park. A sat-nav error caused us to waste a few minutes along the way as the road selected for us gradually faded into a route only suitable for quad bikes.



The day's participants: Mike C, Andy B and Chris.

From the car park we decided to follow one of the more popular routes taking in the summits of Aran Fawddwy and Drysgol in a clockwise direction. The first stage of the walk was a steady climb up the gully to the col between Glasgym and Aran Fawddwy.

Despite it being a hot August day, a strong breeze made for a very comfortable walk, and we were rewarded with fantastic views to the west once we had gained the height.

Then it was trek across boggy ground, still such even after the dry summer of this year. A lot of work has been done on path improvements in this area lately, with gravelled sections and sturdy boardwalks installed. We searched for the spot where in the past club members have been known to disappear up to their middle into the bog and found remains of a perilous rocking boardwalk. Astonishingly Chris decided to test it out! He somehow managed to stay dry.



Chris (in the background) celebrates one of the new gravelled sections

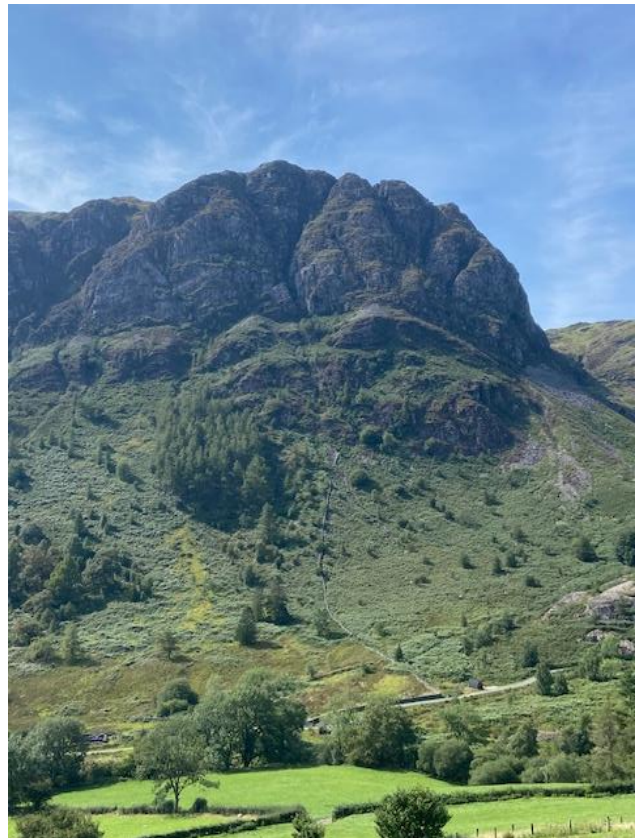
Continuing to the summit of Aran Fawddwy the sky remained clear, and we had spectacular views of Cadair Idris, the Mawddach estuary and the Rhinogs. From the top Bala Lake / Llyn Tegid could also be seen. We descended the east ridge of the mountain passing the lower summit of Drysgol and then took a long easy walk down to a start point where we saw the only other walkers of the day.

By the time we reached the lower altitude of the car, the day was feeling noticeably warmer and we had worked up quite a thirst. The very moment that we started deliberating on where to go for refreshments a pub came into view which settled the matter. After drinks we headed back to the car. An ice cream van arrived in the car park at precisely the same time as us, and so yet another refreshment stop was taken before we headed back to Shrewsbury.

Andy Bentley



... and dares to test one of the old boardwalk planks



View of Glasgwm

August Bank Holiday 22nd - 25th 2025

The annual BBQ weekend at Clwt y Bel

A few people had rolled up by Friday evening and the weather was set fair for an extended session outside at the picnic bench which lasted until 2.00a.m.! Adrian reckons Mike and Rachel led him astray but memories vary.

Tracy arrived early Saturday morning raring to go and eventually she and Adrian were dropped off in the Nant Ffrancon by the Youth Hostel and made a speedy return to CyB via Atlantic Slabs. This really is a good way to do Atlantic Slabs as parking is so limited. Meanwhile Jan had a frustrating time on a favourite walk finding an important bridge over the river near Bethesda closed for repairs/replacement thus necessitating more tarmac than planned. Mike C and Andy T both headed for Elidir Fawr but separately and in different directions.

So by Saturday evening there were 10 of us for a BBQ. Jan, Mike C, Andy T, Catherine A, Adrian W, Rachel H, Val, Graham B and Katherine, Mark B.

On Sunday, swimming in the sea off Anglesey featured prominently with Rachel, Adrian and Val leading the way. Sian Barnes arrived and did a varied walk from Tregarth with Jan. Andy T paddle boarded and Mark went for Elidir Fawr.

All in all there was quite a bit of coming and going and everyone had a good time with perfect weather...if only it could always be like that.

Jan C



Rachel, Mike, Catherine and Katherine enjoying the BBQ

Photo: Ian

Club email contacts

Role and Name/s	Contact for.....	Club email address
Membership Secretary Chris Wood	Membership enquiries Notification of changes to your personal details, such as address, phone number etc	membership@shrewsburymc.com
Treasurer Graham Baldry	Financial matters such as payment of annual subscription and claiming expenses	treasurer@shrewsburymc.com
Meet card Catherine Allen, Lee Campbell	Matters relating to meet co-ordination	mail@shrewsburymc.com
Hut Bookings Cheryl Foster	Clwt-y-Bel bookings	bookings@shrewsburymc.com
Social media management Lee Campbell	Matters relating to Club WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram	media@shrewsburymc.com
Secretary Julie Tight	General enquiries. Emails will be forwarded to the relevant person where appropriate	mail@shrewsburymc.com

Clwt y Bel - hut maintenance Sept 26-28th 2025**HELP NEEDED!**

Volunteers are needed for a variety of skilled and unskilled jobs both indoors and outside, weather permitting. This is a great opportunity to practise your DIY and learn from others too in a fun and social setting.

You offer your help for one or two days and then go out on the hills the rest of the weekend. **Lunch** for workers will be provided on the Saturday so long as you let **Jan** know you will be there.

Meet coordinator: Jan

A jobs list has already been sent out by email.

For questions about the jobs please contact Chris Wood

CLUB ARCHIVE A note from Mike Creese

I would like to remind everyone that the SMC club archive is now live and kicking and is updated with new club information, photos etc. The archive contains:

- Photo archive back until 1960
- Clwt-y-Bel historic information -- For those budding historians, including those interested in reading about Clwt-y-Bel from someone born there.
- Newsletters

Please do send any new photos to mail@shrewsburymc.com and we will add these into the archive. Please make sure you provide details of the year the photo was taken and the location as this will be used to organise the photos.

You will soon or would have just received an email that provides a link to access the archive. This is your gateway into the archive, so look at your email!

CLUB WhatsApps A note from Lee Campbell

Please be reminded that we have set up three WhatsApp group chats for SMC members to get involved with:

- Climbers – arrange climbing meets at the climbing wall or crag
- Ad Hoc Outdoors – arrange non-climbing meets like walks, biking, or paddling
- Gear Sales and Advice – Get advice, or buy and sell gear. Use your best judgment when trading

Upcoming Meets/ Events

September

Friday 26th – Sunday 28th September Clwt y Bel Hut Maintenance

See advert on previous page

Meet coordinator: Jan Campbell

October

Sunday 12th October Cadair Idris

Meet coordinator: Graham Baldry

Sunday 26th October Bala

Meet coordinator: Cheryl Foster

November

Friday 7th – Sunday 9th September (to coincide with Remembrance Sunday and an ascent of Great Gable). Stair Cottage, Newlands valley, Lake District

Meet coordinator: Catherine Allen

Sunday 16th November Glyders, Snowdonia

Meet coordinator: Sean Toms

Saturday 22nd November Social Evening, The Three Fishes PH, Shrewsbury

Meet coordinator: Adrian Wilcock

Sunday 30th November Snowdonia

Meet coordinator: Andy Bentley

December

Friday 5th – Sunday 7th December Clwt y Bel Christmas Party

Meet coordinator: Jan Campbell

Sunday 21st December Sunrise, Local Walk and Xmas Lunch

Meet coordinator: Mike Blakemore

LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD: February 21st-28th the Scottish winter trip to Killin.

Meet coordinator: Jan Campbell

More details of meets will be circulated by email nearer the time.

Tuesday Evening Walking Programme

Meet at 7.30pm for the walk

Contact Michael Creese for further details

When?	Where?	Grid Ref	What3Word
7 th Oct	Womerton, Long Mynd	SO 458 972	items.gallons.collides
14 th Oct	Cardingmill Valley	SO 446 945	fatigued.kicks.lavished
21 st Oct	The Bog car park	SO 357 978	skim.tapers.training
28 th Oct	The Square, Church Stretton	SO 452 937	grills.climate.scorched
4 th Nov	Nesscliffe Country Park, Pines Car Park	SJ 389 198	note.covenants.nearly
11 th Nov	The Wharfage, Ironbridge	SJ 668 036	commutes.matchbox.vocal
18 th Nov	Surgery car park, Pontesbury	SJ 399 062	throw.resort.landowner
25 th Nov	Rectory Woods	SO 449 936	immune.kinds.clash

Pub Afterwards – No longer stipulated as part of the programme. Members who wish to go for a drink after the walk can make their own arrangements on the evening.

2024 Photo Competition : Mountaineering runner up



A reminder that if you've not yet taken your 'master shot' for the 2025 photo competition you only have three months left to capture it.

Above is the runner up in the mountaineering category of last year's competition. It was taken by Phil Holden and shows Brenda on Caudale Moor in the Far Eastern Fells of the Lake District.