

## **2018 Caernarfon & Dwyfor Newsletter - No 3 (6th March )**

Contributions for future editions to me please [davewoods@toucansurf.com](mailto:davewoods@toucansurf.com)

### **WEDDING BELLS**

Congratulations to C&D love birds Jo-Anne and Roy on their recent wedding, held at the Royal Victoria Hotel in Llanberis. Fortunately they got back to Aberdaron before it was cut off by snow. Yes, even in Aberdaron!

### **RAMBLERS GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING IN BANGOR – HELP!**

Surprisingly the appeal below, printed in the last newsletter, resulted in a zero response. So here it is again folks, in the hope that some of you with time to spare on the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> April might be willing to support your committee and the Ramblers by helping at the meeting in Bangor.

Delegates from Wales and England will be attending this gathering at Bangor University. It is usual for the groups in the meeting area (that's us and Bangor/Bethesda) to help with arrangements. The meetings take place on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, and help is needed for hosting the registration and information desk, scrutineers and tellers for voting, and timekeepers for debates. A couple of short local walks for the Saturday morning are also usually arranged. If you can spare some time, even a couple of hours will help, it would be much appreciated. Please contact chairman Dafydd Jones to discuss. [davidgrant55@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:davidgrant55@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 01766 524817

### **SOCIAL EVENTS**

Following on from Val Kressmans excellent Camino de Santiago de Compostella show in January we have enjoyed two great adventure evenings in February. First we saw award winning films from the annual Banf Film Festival at Venue Cymru in Llandudno, with an evening meal first. Then later in the month the Galari in Caernarfon hosted two guest speakers and films from the Kendal Mountain Festival. The things that people do, or are able to do, never ceases to amaze, and one speaker, an enthusiastic 23 year old kayaker who specialises in plunging down vertical waterfalls, was no exception.

So Joan's next social event has a lot to live up to! But then, enjoyment comes in many forms, and our annual just for fun quiz night at the Snowdonia Parc Brewpub in Waunfawr usually ticks all the boxes. So join us this Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, with optional meals from 6pm and the quiz starting around 8pm. Plus of course, Carmen's brewed on the premises range of beers adds to the occasion.

## **TIM TACLO LLWYBRAU**

This is my first newsletter report for 2018. It now seems appropriate to look back on what the team achieved in 2017. Although this is now behind us, looking back at what we all achieved is something to be really proud of. Our successes not only with clearing and maintenance work on many of our valued rights of way but the surveying and way marking of the Slate Trail.

Tim Taclo Llwybrau really does matter and we must encourage each other to love our footpaths and take part in any small way we can to protect our very valuable legacy not only for ourselves but for future generations. Sometimes it is very disappointing to note how long it takes for some much-needed repairs or be told of access problems, a few on the Coastal Path etc seem that they have been going on for years. By enlarge though there is a continual improvement in spite of a reduction in Council resources.

Six of our group volunteers will be taking responsibility for patrolling the Slate Way between Penrhyn and Fron and reporting any problems to include suggestions for maintenance issues and further waymarking. Any funding and reports will be forwarded to the six Trustees are now in place.

I am pleased also to report that we now have a second 'Dwfor Group' involving several volunteers from Lleyr Ramblers led by Noel Davey and Rob Jones whom many of you know. We are supporting them on their work days as and when required and wish them success in the future.

Finally in the name of 'Kitchener' YOUR FOOTPATHS NEED YOU' without your support we would be unable to continue to protect our valuable rights of way that we all so much enjoy. If you would like to take part, maybe for just a few hours a year it would be great to hear from you.

A big thank you and best wishes for 2018.

Graham.

### **FIRST AID FOR THE TRIG POINT ON GARNEDD UGAIN (CRIB Y DDYSGL)**

Some people think trig points out of date, others see them as part of our history. The OS have stopped maintaining them, but give advice to the many groups across the UK who have adopted them. I thought C&D Ramblers might have ago at repairing the trig point on Garnedd Ugain. Early days yet, but if I arrange a lift for a team of four on the Snowdon train this spring/summer, taking materials and some shuttering, is anyone with experience interested in taking part in this project? Replies to Dave as above please.

## SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY FUNDING

Many of you will be aware of the Welsh Government's reduction in funding for the National Parks in Wales, and the effect on footpaths, public toilets and many other Park Authority responsibilities. For the quite shocking detail please see the extract below, part of a report by the Snowdonia Society. Hopefully the Ramblers will become more active in campaigning to reverse the decline in our National Parks, but we could also do our bit by raising the matter with our Welsh Assembly Members and Members of Parliament.

### THE OTHER NHS CRISIS

National Parks are our *Natural Health Service*, a kind of outdoor NHS. Free at the point of delivery, National Parks provide prescriptions to soothe the head and get the heart pumping. National Parks and the NHS are both products of that blast of fresh post-war thinking, when the nation dared to ask how things could be different and better for everyone. Today, like the other NHS, Snowdonia National Park faces financial challenges on an unprecedented scale.

**A chronic condition** - *persisting for a long time or constantly recurring.*

**With cuts over several years and more to come, by 2020 Snowdonia National Park Authority's total budget at £4.48million will actually be smaller than it was in 2000 (£4.54million). Taking inflation into account, this means that over twenty years the spending power available for looking after Snowdonia has decreased by around 40%. In each of the next two years a further 5% will be cut from the National Park Budget, among the highest of any government service.**

**40 staff posts have been deleted from the National Park Authority (NPA) since 2007. Of those at least 25 have gone in the last 4 years. More staff posts will be lost this year, and in subsequent years. The NPA has tried to protect public-facing services but already the impacts can be seen in services such as Tourist Information Centres.**

Under the knife

Anyone who spends time in Snowdonia with their eyes open will begin to notice the impacts of the next swathe of cuts at the National Park Authority. The Snowdonia Society has just responded to the NPA's consultation on the financial challenge it faces. The proposals cover increasing income, reducing costs, and restructuring. But it is the proposals on reducing levels of services which really give cause for concern.

Amongst other proposals, cuts to services are being considered for:

- Public Rights of Way
- Conservation
- Wardens
- \* Communications
- \* Access
- \* Estate Workers

For hard-working National Park staff the uncertainty over looming cuts must be very unhelpful. At a more strategic level, the National Parks of Wales have endured years of uncertainty, as their purposes and governance having been the subject of three successive Welsh Government reviews. The Williams Commission, the Marsden report, and the Future Landscapes process have each taken completely different approaches to looking at what should happen next.

**What our National Parks need now is a shot of leadership and an extended course of commitment and investment by government.**

#### **UPCOMING WALKS**

Saturday 10 March Foel fawr & Craig Wen Grade C, 8 miles. Meet 10am at Tomen y Mur CP. SH 707389. For car share meet Lidl Porthmadog SH 560 390 at 9.15am. Leader Roy 07721 592892

Saturday 17 March Drovers Road to Llyn Crafnant Grade C, 7 miles. Meet 10.30am at Siabod café, Capel Curig. Leader John H 01286 n881071

Sunday 25 March Aberglaslyn & Cwm Bychan Grade D, 5 miles. Meet 2pm at Nantmor NT CP SH 597 462 Leader John B 01766 514396

Sunday 8 April Ty Mawr & the beautiful Lledr Valley Grade C 6 miles. Meet 10.30am at Dolwyddelan Station SH 738 521 Leader Guto Parry 01286 872746

Saturday 14 April Tracks & Paths in Coed Maentwrog Grade C 6 miles. Meet 10.30am at forest CP SH 646 416 Leader John H 01286 881071

#### **DID YOU SEE OR HEAR IT?**

We are trying to attract new members by getting more coverage in the local media. However, it is difficult to monitor this, hence this plea. If you see or hear anything relating to Caernarfon & Dwyfor Ramblers can you please drop me an email to let me know when and what it was about – just a couple of lines will do. If you have any bright ideas as to how we might up our game in this respect, again, drop me a line please. [davewoods@toucansurf.com](mailto:davewoods@toucansurf.com)