

Eryri Ramblers

Newsletter No 11 - 12 December 2018

Contributions for future editions to me please

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SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Starting with some good news, Cymdeithas Eryri, the Snowdonia Society, released the following statement recently. The Society led the campaign to bring Welsh Government to its senses, when it seemed on the brink of unravelling the protection of our most precious landscapes. Your support gave us the resources and a mandate for this campaign, which resulted in a real change of direction. In 2018 the Minister for the Environment, Hannah Blythyn, brought five years of reviews and uncertainty to an end by announcing that "all wales' existing Areas of Outstanding Natural beauty and National parks will be retained and that their current purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty will not be weakened". The Minister also reversed planned budget cuts for the National Parks in Wales.

LLYN CWELLYN WALL

I imagine that most of you will know Llyn Cwellyn, nestling as it is in the valley north west of Snowdon, and with the Snowdon Ranger path starting from there. The owner of Castell Cidwm, a former hotel at the lakes northern end, is in the process of having a half mile long wall built in the narrow gap between the lake and the A4085. The 140 ft deep ice age lake is a reservoir, the shoreline classed as a Special Area of Conservation and the wall, built directly on the edge of the tarmacked road, will make this stretch of the A4085 very dangerous for pedestrians or any cyclist who might have to come to a stop. Lots of local people complain about the wall, but there has been no concerted effort to stop or alter it.

The roadside at the start of the Snowdon Ranger path now has double yellow lines, and your committee agreed that the danger to walkers trying to reach the start of the path by walking along the road, plus the environmental issues involved, warranted us raising objections. A two page document was drafted and sent to the various bodies involved, plus other organisations and individuals. The document, which has a number of photos, is available to see on the Eryri website, or email me for a copy if you wish.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Not much time left now if you have yet to book for our always popular Christmas Lunch extravaganza at the Royal Victoria Hotel, Llanberis on Sunday 16 December. Contact Nigel 01248 352604 by 10am 14 December. With former members of Bangor & Bethesda group swelling our numbers, this year there will be even more competition for the winning ticket in the annual raffle. Hefina will again be selling tickets (proceeds to the group), the prize being two nights of your choice at a smart Cheshire hotel, worth it is estimated around £300!

Mercure Hotel
ALTRINCHAM BOWDON HOTEL



Congratulations *You are the lucky winner of*

Two nights accommodation for two persons in a superior room including breakfast and use of leisure facilities.
Plus dinner and bottle of wine on one night.
The hotel has ample free parking, free WiFi throughout and you will also have full use of the hotels leisure facilities

NEW WEBSITE

Roy Milnes seems to have returned from the Rockies with renewed purpose, working hard to present a website with a new look to go with our new name of Eryri <https://eryriramblers.org> Well done Roy, and as Wallace might say to Gromit, cracking photos lad! Thanks also to Chis Parry, ex B&B, for her Eryri tweets site, <https://twitter.com/EryriRamblers> a good spot for up to date info.

2019 LONG WEEKEND

Having organised the long summer weekend for a few years now, Guto and I had already decided to 'retire' even before our health problems came along. So here is a chance for another team to take over, or an individual, though we found that splitting the walking and evening meals roles worked very well. Chris, Ian and John took us to the Peak District a few times, since then we have been to Church Stretton, Llangollen, Bishops Castle, Bakewell and Aberaeron (I have probably missed somewhere!). So still plenty of other options, or repeat visits. We have enjoyed the roles, usually with a nice rece weekend in the spring to check out paths and eating places. Give one of us a call if you would like any further information.

TIM TACLO LLWYBRAU (FOOTPATH TACKLING TEAM) - AS IN ATTACKING

What a great summer we have had. The Tim Taclo volunteers have been invigorated by the extended spell of lovely weather which I hope you too have also had a chance to enjoy. The valiant volunteer helpers from our group who are out there each every month believe that their action speaks louder than words. Since our last edition two previously obstructed paths in Talysarn are now fully open for us. All those that have attended at least one of our work days in the past year have been invited by the Council for a Christmas Lunch on Thursday 20th December 2018 at the Lodge Dinorwig Café. This will be preceded by a short walk.

If you have not attended one of our work days before and would like to occasionally offer your very welcome help in the maintenance of our rights of way paths please let me know. Most of the work is simply cutting back overgrowth which if not done will eventually completely obstruct the path. We now have a separate group for both the Arfon and Dwfor areas. Both groups are fully funded and equipped with both power and hand tools. I look forward to hearing from you. Graham Fitch Graham.fitchs@gmail.com

AGM

Sounded like a lively evening at the Royal Victoria Hotel, Llanberis on the 15 November, and an historic one with the name change for the group. Though no doubt the committee will consider introducing a sound system for future meetings! Welcome to our new Social Secretary, Diane Jamal

DODGING THE AGM!

Three former or current members of the group committee found themselves in Ysbyty Gwynedd on the night of the AGM, but fortunately all are now home again. Edmund Plaxton, for so long the binding that kept the group flourishing and together, is back home with Rachel, and with a care package in place to help them manage up at Y Fron. Treasurer Guto Parry ended up with an emergency operation after suffering a perforated bowel, this followed by sepsis. This side of things has all been cleared up, but he is still left with major walking problems from his ongoing back and legs problem. Completing the trio, I found myself joining the C club and a little lighter, after the removal of a malignant tumour and part of the colon. This getting older has its draw backs!

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WALKS DIARY

Thursday 13 December Three Tryfans, a C grade nine mile walk. Ken Chandler is leading this walk, starting at 10.30am at the Snowdonia Parc Brewpub/WHR car park/bus stop, and no doubt finishing at the bar later. The Tryfans include Tryfan Junction, Moel Tryfan and Tryfan Hall.

Sat 29 December Lon Gwyrfai. Graham Fitch is leading this C grade 7 mile walk starting at 10.30am from the Rhyd Ddu CP/BS. Walk off those Christmas mince pies in Beddgelert Forest, enjoy the view of Snowdon across Llyn Gader, and make the most of the choice of hospitality on return, at either the Cwellyn Arms or the Ty Mawr tea rooms.

No Menter Fachwen walks in this period.

I close by wishing you Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda.