

# Eryri Ramblers

Newsletter No 1 - 18 January 2019

Contributions for future editions to me please

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## EDMUND PLAXTON - OUR FRIEND

Many of us were at St Beuno's Church in Clynnog Fawr last week for Edmund's funeral service, led by the Bishop of Bangor. It was a memorable winter's day, with his family and many friends present. Although Edmund had understandably taken a back seat for the last two or three years, he still followed Caernarfon & Dwyfor's progress and seemed pleased that the ship he had piloted for many years still sailed on. Although his beliefs were such a large part of his life they always stayed in the background. Whether he was leading a walk, encouraging us to be bold at a meeting, or welcoming new faces, he was simply Edmund Plaxton - a good man, a friend to us all.

Below is a slightly edited version of a message sent by Rachel.

Dave

Dear friends & family,

What a wonderful summer! It was particularly special for Edmund & me, as he was in remission, not taking any chemotherapy and getting stronger by the day. So when Rebecca & Chris invited us to stay with them in Sidmouth for the Folk Festival Week, we were delighted to accept. It was a perfect holiday & lovely to see how happy they are in their new surroundings. We shared the drive, making it comfortably doable.

Our halcyon summer broke when Edmund got a chest infection that did not respond to antibiotic pills, making two spells in hospital necessary for intravenous antibiotics, once pneumonia took hold. This masked a spread of the cancer, which erupted two days into the

second hospitalisation, inflaming his lower spine & paralysing his legs. A day's radiotherapy at Glan Clwyd cancer hospital, halted the spread, but a return to chemotherapy was inappropriate. It was very hard for our one-time marathon runner & mountain Rambler, coming to terms with not being ever able to walk again! We needed two carers four times a day to enable end of life care at home. A very scarce resource, so he remained in caring Alaw Ward, Ysbyty Gwynedd another fortnight, coming home finally on December 3rd. He has had a fortnight here with me.

Thankfully he was fully aware of his family around him, and was able to tell us how much he loved us. "Thank you" were his repeated word, & he could break into a beautiful smile for us & for the angels he clearly saw around him, as he slipped in & out of consciousness.

Edmund died, with Michael's holding-cross gift in his hand, on Wednesday 19th December. Our family have been a wonderful support through these last few days.

We thank you for all your loving prayers that have upheld us through these last two years. , This message comes with our fond love. I am thankful that my dear Edmund is at peace. Now all will be well & all manner of things will be well, as Julian of Norwich declared.

Blessings & love, Rachel & family x

## **LONG SUMMER WEEKEND**

For all those who have enjoyed the series of long weekends away, and for those who have yet to share that enjoyment, this year's event depends upon us finding a new organiser, or a team of organisers. The event is usually held on the first weekend in the July, though that date is not set in stone. For the last few years Guto has arranged the meal venues and me (that's Dave) the walks. We usually aimed for a location with a choice of B&B accommodation and a camping/caravan/campervan site nearby. Plus, of course, a good walking area. Please let Dafydd or Margaret know if you are interested, or talk to Guto or me for more information.

## **ERYRI RAMBLERS SOCIAL EVENTS 2019 - from Di**

I hope we can have some fun meeting up this year other than during our usual wonderful walks. I've set out some proposed activities but if anyone would like to suggest any others, then please let me know. We will have our Annual Quiz night on Thursday 21 March at Snowdonia Parc Brewpub in Waunfawr - from 6pm if you want to eat/drink from the bar, with the quiz at 8pm.

You might be interested to know that there are a series of films/talks at Galeri in Caernarfon, for us adventurous types:

1 Feb (7.00) Free Solo - Film about Alex Honnold

15 Feb (7.30) Kendal Mountain Festival - talks/film

2 March (7.30 or pre-show 5.30) Fell Running Legends - Talks/film

4 March (7.30) Leo Houlding - The Spectre Expedition - Talk/film

6 April (7.30) My Mountain Life by Simon Yates - Talk/film

Best to book your own tickets but we can meet for drink/meal beforehand (details to follow)

I also hope to organize the following events for us during the year and would be grateful if you could contact me by email:

[diane.jamal@btinternet.com](mailto:diane.jamal@btinternet.com) if you are interested in taking part in any of these. I will give further details of dates and costs in future Newsletters in any case.

LONG BOAT ROWING session

KAYAKING session

EVENING BEACH PICNIC

FOREST COASTER at ZipWorld

TEN PIN BOWLING, Glasfryn

AUTUMN MUSHROOM FORAGE

PHOTOGRAPHING SNOWDONIA talk

Look forward to seeing you ... Di Jamal

## **WALES COAST PATH FESTIVAL**

This event takes place on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Ramblers are just one of the organizations taking part, with our group leading a range of walks from Porthmadog. Dafydd would like to hear from anyone willing to lead that day, to arrange a balanced programme of walks, so please contact him at Dafydd Jones <davidgrant55@hotmail.co.uk>

## **BWLCH MAES GWM**

Many of you will have crossed this bwlch, which is on the path from Llanberis to Rhyd Ddu or Snowdon Ranger. It is seen at its best from the Llanberis path up Snowdon, the bwlch forming a perfect notch between Moel Cynghorion and Foel Goch on the western skyline, with the bridleway to the bwlch just a thin line up the valley and across the hillside.

However, that thin line is now under threat, as the path forms part of the SNPA plan for a 'round Snowdon' walking and cycling route. Whilst the path needs repair in places, it is still the sort of path we need to keep in remote and unspoilt mountain terrain. To the west of the bwlch the SNPA have been carrying out major work on the Snowdon Ranger path, involving the laying of drains and the widening and resurfacing of the path with compressed gravel. They have now used this process to repair the path to Bwlch Maes Gwm from the Snowdon Ranger route, and seem to have the intention of using the same method of 'improvement' on the Llanberis side of the bwlch.

As the hillside below Foel Goch is very steep this would involve the digging out of the hillside to widen the path and the dumping of the waste material below the path, ruining the feeling of remoteness and adventure still to be found in Maes Gwm.

Whilst the number of people walking up Snowdon justifies path widening and improvement, the path to Bwlch Maes Gwm has nothing like that level of usage, whether by walkers or mountain bikers. Does the SNPA intend to turn the whole of their round Snowdon route into a footpath motorway, thus ruining what is a little gem in this corner of Snowdonia? I urge you to walk from Llanberis through Maes Gwm to the bwlch, have a look at the 'improved' paths on the other side, then if you agree with me write to Emyr Williams, the Chief Executive of the SNPA, giving him your views.

Dave

## OS PREMIUM MAPS - FOR ERYRI MEMBERS ONLY

OS Maps Log in screen	Log in Email	Password
<a href="https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/52.48621,-2.21548,7">https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/52.48621,-2.21548,7</a>	<a href="mailto:cadwramblers@gmail.com">cadwramblers@gmail.com</a>	CADWrangler! Note CAPS and !
<p><b>Notes</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using the Mobile App (via Google Play or iTunes) you can save as many areas you wish by scrolling 1km squares, naming the area and saving it to use offline when rambling.</li> <li>WARNING! When you select the app if you have a data signal the online map comes up which will use your data allowance. OS advise switching to flight mode. I've logged this with OS as a defect.</li> <li>This service is available to Eryri members only and must not be passed onto non-members as it may lock out too many people because access is limited to only 5 online users at any one time.</li> <li>When you are in, the little stack icon (lower right) selects the map type Choose OS Leisure Maps and zoom in to 1:25k</li> <li>Any problems use the OS helpline which is excellent 03454 560420</li> </ol>		

Please contact Roy Milnes if you need any help - 07721 592892 Roy would also like to know how many are using the service, to see whether to carry on the deal in future years, so please let him know..

### AGM HIGHLIGHTS

Dafydd voiced his appreciation for the huge contribution Edmund had made in transforming the local group and reaching out to new members when he became Membership Secretary and kept us informed through his newsletters.

Dafydd thanked the committee members for all their hard work over the year and Val Kressman as Membership Secretary and Graham Fitch as Footpath Secretary and Tim Taclo (footpath maintenance) Organizer.

*Bangor & Bethesda Group* The Group had formally disbanded and 76 members had transferred to join us. This meant our current name was no longer appropriate. Various suggestions were made (including North Gwynedd, Snowdonia, Arfon&Dwyfor). After much discussion a show of hands demonstrated a convincing majority for Eryri Ramblers for its iconic and romantic associations and for being short and punchy which eases internet usage. This will be put to the Area at the AGM.

*Walks Programme* Dafydd thanked Roy Milnes for his work in coordinating the programme and the walk leaders. We need more leaders! Free training is available. Roy (Webmaster & Walks Programme coordinator) highlighted that there were 29 walks for the Spring programme compared to the 41 put on by the 2 groups for the same period last year. This was a worrying drop. Chris Parry had said she was prepared to integrate our new group into the Twitter account she had set up for Bangor&Bethesda group.

*Footpath Officer and Tim Taclo Llwybrau Organiser* Graham thanked all members who had helped with issues raised through Gwynedd Council or members of the public. These had been dealt with by the council or our volunteers. During the year, the team has worked on 17 days and cleared nearly 6km on 15 different paths. New members are needed and if you can spare a few hours please make contact.

Recently Graham attended a meeting of the trustees of the Slate Trail. £2,500 is available for maintenance. Badges and the waterproof route books are available for sale here and via the website; cost is £12.99 with £5 being donated to cover future maintenance. Ramblers Cymru have a 'Paths for People' project offering councils help in improving paths and creating circular routes. Funds will be available for tools, way-marking, publicity leaflets and support from staff in attending meetings.

#### *Election of Officers*

Dafydd Jones - Chair                      Dave Woods - Vice-Chair, Newsletter  
Margaret Lowe - Secretary      Guto Parry - Treasurer  
Roy Milnes - Walks Programme Co-ordinator and Webmaster

Di Jamal joined the Committee as Social Secretary, other members are John Hammond, Wendy Pearson, Maggi Barry and Hefina Rowley These were accepted by the meeting.

Val Kressman and Graham Fitch are to continue to in their roles as Membership Secretary and Footpath Officer/Tim Taclo Llwybrau Organiser respectively.

### **ERYRI GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING 9/1/19**

Dafydd welcomed Simon Longfellow from the ex B&B Group, whom he had invited to join the committee. Also welcomed to her first meeting was Di Jamal, Social Secretary. Discussion took place about how to fund equipment for the new Tim Taclo work group for Lley. The need to progress a Welsh section of our website was agreed, and Roy will work on this. The Countryfile TV programme about the Slate Trail has been postponed. An update on the Llyn Cwellyn wall was given and Dave reported on the threatened widening of the Bwlch Maes Gwm path. Dafydd reported on the Wales Coast Path festival plans.

### **UPCOMING WALKS**

Saturday 19 January (Sorry for the late notice, Newsletter a bit late, not Graham!). Unfortunately on the 28th November due to extreme weather conditions my 6 mile circular walk starting from Llandygai to Halfway Bridge was cancelled. This walk will now take place this Saturday 19th January and will be dedicated to our good friend Canon Edmund who recently passed away. The walk will start at 10.15am from the roadside parking location in the lane signposted to the Bangor Rugby Club at SH598 708. The forecast looks fairly promising this time.

It's a very enjoyable easy going 'D' walk taking in the Slate Trail, Pilgrim Way, North Wales Path, Coastal Path and Permissive Paths of the Penrhyn Estate. The route follows well drained paths through a very scenic area.

Hopefully see you Saturday.                      Graham

Wednesday 23 January Starting at 10.30am from Talysarn CP/BS, SH 488 529, John H will lead this 6 mile D walk in Dyffryn Nantlle.

Saturday 9 February Another D walk, 5 miles this time, walking along the Menai Strait and under the two bridges. Meet at Menai Bridge bus station, SH 556720, for the 10.52am bus to Llanfair PG, with Dave W or a deputy leading, and a choice of café or pubs on return..

Thursday 21 February Join Micky for a 5 mile Aberffraw circular, a D walk with fine sea views starting at 11.15am from Aberffraw Square/BS, SH 355688

Saturday 23 February A 10.15am start for a ramble with Graham around Moel y Ci. A 6 mile D walk starting at Moel y Ci farm CP, SH 593678, with the welcoming café there on return.

There are no Menter Fachwen walks at present.

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