



Summer Newsletter - July 2022

Editorial - Jane Berry

The John Ystumllyn Rose



One of Britain's first known black gardeners has been honoured with a rose named after him in celebration of his life.

John Ystumllyn, whose original name is unknown, was abducted as an eight-year-old boy in west Africa around 1746 and taken to Gwynedd, North Wales. There he became a servant in the household of the Wynn family of Ystumllyn, whose estate he was named after, and learned horticulture in the gardens.

He went on to become a respected gardener and the first black person in the region whose life was well documented, marrying a local white woman, Margaret Gruffydd.

Criccieth now has around 40 of these magnificent roses planted around the town. I am planning a walk which will take in these, his workplace and where he was buried later this month.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this Newsletter.

Please be thinking about what you could add to the autumn edition, due at the end of September.

Chairman - Dafydd Jones

1] Your committee met again on 8 June 2022. We had very enthusiastic debates about many items and I wish to thank them all for putting up with my rather weak chairmanship of the meeting - still recovering from my serious operations. Anyway we managed to get through it all.

2] First Aid. Maggie Barry has kindly agreed to look into getting suitable courses for our interested members. I also took the opportunity of raising the issue at the Area Council meeting on Saturday 25 June, I am keen for Ramblers to lead on this.

3] Membership. Whilst our membership has remained constant at around 190, we want to encourage more to join Ramblers particularly since our Facebook account has in excess of 700 active people.

4] Newsletter. Please let Jane have any newsy items for the next edition.

5] Social Programme. Diane is keen to restart a programme of events, any ideas please get in touch with her.

6] Tim Taclo. Graham kindly briefed us on the next phase of the Gwynedd/Tim Taclo programme. A strategy has been agreed whereby Tim Taclo will be given circular paths to be inspected, agreed with Community Councils, to identify problems and report back on forms for action to be taken, all co-ordinated and directed by Gwynedd officers. Apparently there is funding available for the work to be carried out.

7] Finances. We have a healthy bank balance.

8] Area Council. I am taking this opportunity to report back on some of the issues raised at the Area Council on 25 June.

a] Paths to Wellbeing. Whilst the current exploratory programme continues [Penrhyndeudraeth is currently being surveyed] the intention is to expand the programme and could/will include Community Councils in Arfon/Dwyfor.

b] Angela Charlton, currently Director based in Cardiff, agreed to circulate a paper on the role of Community Councils in maintaining public rights of way. Something we need to better understand the Paths to Wellbeing and perhaps the agenda of Gwynedd.

c] Walk Classifications. There is confusion in agreeing the most appropriate ways of defining the suitability of walks from easy to very difficult, to be addressed.

d] Affiliated groups. It was agreed to produce an explanatory note of the status etc of such groups.

9] AGM The AGM for our group is planned for 16 November at 7 pm at the Royal Victoria Hotel in Llanberis. Those of you that wish to join the committee in any role please send your name to Jo-Anne. We would also like some idea of how many will attend, email Jo-Anne please. Thank you all and have a joyful summer, Dafydd.

Walks - Roy Milne, Walks Secretary walkeryriramblers@gmail.com

The 2022 walk programme continues to grow with 48 walks completed and 11 upcoming:

1. 10 Jul Sun Nant Ffrancon C7 by Mieko
2. 15 Jul Fri Rachel's Famous Short Walks: Rhosgadfan D 3
3. 19 Jul Tue Into the Cwm of Yr Eifl C4.5 by Di Jamal
4. 26 Jul Tue Abersoch to Pwllheli along Coastal Footpath C 7 by Di Jamal
5. 30 Jul Sat Rachel's Famous Short Walks: Cilgwyn D 3
6. 31 Jul Sun Trefor Coast to Tre'r Ceiri B9 by Di Jamal
7. 05 Aug Fri Snowdonia Slate Trail: Nantlle to Rhyd-Ddu C5 by Mieko
8. 06 Aug Sat Cwm Llafar Horseshoe A 9 by Matt
9. 12 Aug Fri Rachel's Famous Short Walks: Disused Tip Circular D 4
10. 21 Aug Sat Rachel's Famous Short Walks: Darwin's Rocks D 4
11. 09 Sep Fri Rachel's Famous Short Walks: Llyn Ffonhonnau D 3

All open for booking via the website so the walk leader knows who is coming and provides the now mandatory walk register.

We are still very short of walk leaders particularly for Grade B and C walks, if anyone feels they can contribute by giving something back it would be very much appreciated.

Tim Taclo Llwybrau - Graham Fitch

Can you believe that it has now been over two years since Tim Taclo has been out helping to maintain our Public Rights of Way. The Covid restrictions together with staffing issues at Gwynedd Council just resulted in no work schedules for us.

I am however now very pleased that following much debate we are able to start up again. The plan now underway is to set out Community circular walking routes, some already established, and others to be devised. Necessary funding is available for the replacement or the repair of path furniture, way marking etc.

If you would like to help out with the maintenance of our much valued public footpaths, please send me an email or telephone. Much of the work involved is helping to clear obstructing overgrowth of vegetation requiring hand tools only. Being part of our friendly team is a great way to share valuable fun time with your hiking friends. Please get in touch and you will be kept fully informed of the dates and what will be involved. Why not give it a try, I really do look forward to hearing from you.

Graham

Email: graham.fitchs@gmail.com Telephone: 01248 543016

The Snowdon Lily, Jo-Anne Milnes Secretary



On a cold, wet day seven Ramblers set off to find the Snowdon Lily. As they trudged up the Llanberis path with what seemed thousands of others, only one thought kept them going. A beautiful rare Alpine only found in Snowdonia in the British Isles. There are other places around the world it can be found but Wales has the pleasure of being custodian in this country.

Eventually the intrepid group branched off on a small path leading to towering cliffs. No one followed them. Everyone else intent on reaching the dizzy heights of Mount Snowdon.

After following a climbers path the hunt was on to see if the Lily was on show.

With great joy they found the Lily. Many photos were taken, care being taken so no one could identify where exactly the Lily was found.

The slow trudge down with light rain falling was made with good grace as each one thought about the wonder of nature and the privilege of beholding a flower of beauty.

A favourite walk..... - Simon Longman 07704 801087

I live in Bangor and enjoy panoramic views of the Snowdonia skyline.

I'm also lucky to have selection of good local walks on my doorstep.

One of my favourite walks starts in Parc Menai:

The walk immediately leaves Parc Menai in the direction of Treborth. Walk under the A55 and in approximately 200 metres turn left onto Ffordd Bronwydd.

In about 1km you will arrive under Britannia Bridge and the coastal path. Turn left here and keeping the Menai Straits on your right walk through the woods for 2kms until you reach an elevated platform giving you views over the Straits.

Turn left here and go over the field to the tree line at the top. Look for the kissing gate which leads to the grassy picnic area and car park. Go through the car park and follow the track to the Vaynol Estate farm buildings.

Follow the tarmac road back towards Parc Menai and your starting point.

If you want to add some extra walking have a look around the Parc where there are some superb mature trees and lakes. On this walk, which is about 6 kilometres/4 miles max, grade D there are some great views and I've seen red squirrels, seals, dolphins, a llama, woodpeckers, and lions.

If you fancy an early evening walk I'll happily show you around.

Meet up at 18.30, Tuesday 2nd August, by the Premier Inn Ffordd Y Parc, LL57 4FA.

An Irreverent Tale from the Anon Rambler - hope to hear from you in Autumn!

Menter Fachwen Walks - The website is being upgraded so please contact Gareth Roberts directly for details of walks, exhibitions etc: garethroberts754@yahoo.co.uk

Photo Quiz

Which member of our Committee is this?

No prizes for guessing who was ready for a walk with a sensible hat! Answer in Autumn edition. Why not contribute a photo of yourself or a place for the next Newsletter?

