



Winter Newsletter - February 2023

Editorial - Jane Berry

I'm sure we all have favourite walking websites we check on a rainy day so this is one I enjoy: Will4Adventure.com which details a host of interesting courses, holidays and day walks including some in our area. There is a useful First Aid Quiz based on scenarios, map reading resources and an article on approach shoes v boots (ever controversial!) when walking/scrambling, to name but a few- all of these can be found by using the search box. Happy browsing and do share any you have found to be useful.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this Newsletter.

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

Eryri Ramblers Committee Members

Dafydd Jones, *Chairman*

Roy Milnes, *Walks Co-ordinator and Facebook Admin*

Jo-Anne Milnes, *Secretary and Facebook Admin*

Jane Berry, *Newsletter*

Guto Parry, *Treasurer*

Mieko Yamaguchi, *Membership Secretary, Publicity Officer and Facebook Admin*

Maggie Barry, *Footpath Co-ordinator*

Committee members:

John Hammond, Margaret Lowe, Diane Jamal, Joan Glass, Wendy Pearson,

Kath Woods

Tim Taclo Llwybrau - Graham Fitch

I am very pleased to report that 'Tim Taclo Llwybrau' is now very much underway again helping to maintain our Public Rights of Ways. On Tuesday the 24th of January a team of eight Eryri Ramblers volunteers successfully cleared the obstructing vegetation, installed marker posts and way marked footpath 8 Betws Garmon. Senior footpath officers from Gwynedd Council that also attended offered their full appreciation for the excellent result in reopening this path for all to enjoy.

The plan for the future is to assist in establishing 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, over hanging branches etc requiring hand tools only. Being part of our friendly team is a great way to share valuable fun time with your hiking friends. If you would like to offer a few hours each month to participate in this very worthwhile project please get in touch, your assistance will be so very welcome.

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

Walks report - Roy Milnes, Walks Secretary walkeryriramblers@gmail.com

We have had an excellent start to the New Year with ten walks completed already (at this rate maybe we shall exceed our record of seventy-nine last year).

Our thanks to Graham and Pat, John E, Di D, Richard, Jo-Anne and Rachel for getting the ball rolling with enjoyable well planned walks which have attracted new members.

We have some very interesting upcoming walks and lots more in the pipeline so please keep an eye on Facebook and our website:

11 Feb Sat Moel Smytho and Moel Tryfan C7 by Di

8 Feb Sat Rachel's Famous Short Walks: Darwin's Rocks circular D4

18 Feb Sat Moel Ysgyfarnogod, Foel Penolau and Bryn Cader Fanner B8 by Roy

28 Feb Tue Rachel's Famous Short Walks: Top of Cilgwyn circular D3

18 Mar Sat Rachels Famous Short Walks: Ice Age Pebble D4

Eryri Walk Leader of the Year 2022



There are Emmy's, BAFTA's and Oscars -well, we in Eryri have WA-L -t-YERS! - Walk Leader of the Year.

All our active leaders have done exceptionally well this year to give us a record number of walks but there is one special person who has led seven remarkable walks to great acclaim: -

Tryfan North Ridge - The unanimous accolade that "it was the best walk we had ever been on" also he led up Cnicht, Garnedd Ugain, Crib Goch, Cribau on Lliwedd, Bristly Ridge and The Glyderau.

Richard, it is our great pleasure to appoint you ERYRI WALK LEADER of the YEAR

Richard's walks have attracted Ramblers from across North Wales and further afield including several non-members who have joined up.

Chance encounters- Di Doughty

Some years ago, whilst on a rambling holiday in Madeira, I met a couple from the Sheffield area. Geoff and Nina were keen walkers and after the usual 'Where are you from?' and 'Where do you walk?' questions, they were delighted to hear I live near to the Nantlle Ridge, an area they liked to walk.

Geoff in particular seemed curious. "Do you know Llanllyfni?" he asked. "Yes" I said. "What about the graveyard there?" "Not so much" I replied.

At the time Geoff was collating the archives of the Rucksack club and had come across an article about the Swiss climber Anton Stoop. Stoop had been a member of the club in the early 20th. century. He died on 16th. of October 1910 whilst climbing "The Great Slab of Cwm Silyn", possibly due to a rockfall. He was buried in Llanllyfni.

In 1988 it was recorded in the archives that members of the Rucksack club visited the grave and repaired the plaque. Geoff asked if I would visit the grave and let him know if it was still in good order. I was happy to oblige.

Rhodwyr Eryri Ramblers Newsletter

There are many gravestones in the churchyard in Llanllyfni, all very similar and in the traditional Welsh style- uniformly decorated, in regular rows. I thought it would take some time to find the grave. However in the distance stood a monument quite unlike all the others. A



roughly hewn stone, if seen in the hills it could have been mistaken for an “erratic”. Simply embellished with an Arts and Craft style plaque, it seems absolutely in keeping for a man who loved the mountains. Away in the distance stands mighty Craig Cwm Silyn. The grave is still in good order. I can find little information about Anton Stoop other than he was regarded as an outstanding climber. In 1911 the route was finally completed by Mallory and Pouter during their stay at Snowdon Ranger. But for a chance encounter many miles away, the chances of coming across the grave never mind learning a little of its history would not have happened.

Tales from the anonymous Rambler

Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon). The Mountain that is the most popular in the British Isles. Thousands stream to its heady heights every year. There are many ways to the top. We only go in the winter. Of course, fully equipped, and ready for the unexpected. I remember one winter heading up via the Rhyd Ddu path. Thick snow and an iron cold day. We had reached the top in good time. Didn't linger too long over lunch, it was too cold and started to make our way down before the night closed in around 4.30pm. We had come down off the ridge and were enjoying playing in the snow.

Two men had caught us up and asked the spine-chilling question, where was the Watkin Path? As we pointed back up the Ridge, a long way back, they asked to be shown another way down to Bethania.

At this point we realised they had poor footwear, no map, torch, or extra clothing and had no idea where they were apart from Yr Wyddfa. They had driven up from Birmingham and walked with us until we joined the path to Rhyd Ddu. We pointed out the way to Bwlch Cwm Llan which was quite a way up then down to join the Watkins Path and back down to where their car was. It was a long way. We advised them to come with us down to Rhyd Ddu and we would drive them round to their car.

They still did not understand where they were. “It's OK we'll walk back”! No idea it was at least 15 miles to Bethania. We reached the car as darkness fell and drove them round to Bethania. They were amazed how far it was. We advised them to get better boots, torch and a map and learn to look at an area beforehand, if more walking was on the cards. Myself, I felt it was just a whim to say they had done Snowdon. That evening there was a big snowstorm and I wonder if they ever made it back to Brum that night?

How to join a walk with Eryri Ramblers - Mieko Yamaguchi, Eryri Publicity Officer

- To book a walk go to Eryri Ramblers walks page, <https://eryriramblers.org/walks/>, find a walk and click the purple BOOK button
- You will then see more details of the walk
- If you decide you want to join this walk click another purple BOOK button
- On the next screen you will be asked for your name, email address and phone number
- Make sure there is only one item in the shopping cart at the top before clicking Confirm Booking
- You will receive a confirmation email/message after you have successfully booked a place on the walk

Can I book a place for someone else?

- Yes, you can book a place for your friend or partner
- Please book each person separately even if you share an email address and/or telephone number
- Confirmation email and a reminder the day before the walk will go to whatever email address/phone number you enter on the booking form

How do I cancel my booking?

- Send an email to eryriramblers@gmail.com so someone else can enjoy the walk
- For a last minute cancellation (after 6pm the day before the walk) email or send a message to the walk leader
- If you are a member of Eryri Ramblers you will have received a confidential list of walk leaders' phone numbers

I can no longer see a walk on Eryri Ramblers website. Why?

- When a walk is fully booked it is no longer listed in the main part of Eryri Ramblers' walks page
- Scroll down the page and you will see a list of walks including those fully booked