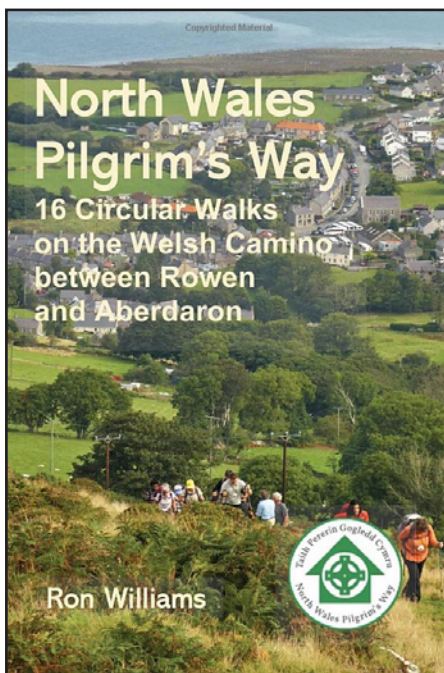


Path at Coed Mor (near Menai Bridge), showing the state before and after a visit by Ynys Môn Group's 'Silver Slashers'
Photos: John Huw Hughes of ACC coastal path team and Gwen Richards.



North Wales Pilgrim's Way Circular walks

Ron Williams has created two books of circular walks that all include part of the North Wales Pilgrim's Way. With sixteen walks in each book this provides a great selection of walk ideas. The walks span almost the full width of North Wales, East to West from Holywell to Aberdaron. They vary in length and difficulty but showcase the stunning richness of scenery across North Wales.

The Pilgrim's Way and these circular walks are in coastal and countryside areas often revealing hidden treasures away from the honeypot locations.

Each walk gives route descriptions. However waymarkers go missing and seasonal and other changes mean it is recommended that walkers take the relevant OS map with them and these are given at the start of each walk.

For more details on the North Wales Pilgrim's Way/Taith Pererin Gogledd Cymru and to purchase the books visit the website: pilgrims-way-north-wales.org

Access to our Countryside

In the last newsletter I wrote about the Anniversary of the mass trespass on Kinder Scout in 1932. Some might think that with the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) and other legislation that we have now sorted out most access issues to our countryside. I was rather intrigued and slightly depressed when reading an article in a national newspaper that a wealthy landowner is making legal moves that could threaten the right of backpackers and youth groups to wild camp on Dartmoor.

<https://tinyurl.com/jch2eeht>

Dartmoor is the only place in England and Wales where it is legal to wild camp in designated areas, without a landowner's permission. It is also reckoned and documented that people have wild camped in these areas for at least 100 years. This was backed up with bylaws brought in under the Dartmoor Commons Act in the mid-1980s enshrining it as a right. It is important that we are allowed to wild camp and it is an essential part of the BMC Mountain Leader training and assessment and often used as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Generally, wild camping without the landowner's permission is illegal in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. As part of Scotland's access legislation, the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, you are allowed to camp on most unenclosed land. However, due to overuse, some areas of Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park are subject to wild camping byelaws.

The landowner on Dartmoor claims

that increasing numbers of people are camping on the moor, with some lighting fires, which could burn many acres of moorland. He also says they have left behind litter, including camping equipment and human waste. The Park's chief executive however states that the park authority has found no evidence that responsible wild camping has any lasting impact on the environment. There have been no wildfires linked to wild camping on Stall Moor, according to the authority. Across the entire moor, Devon and Somerset fire and rescue service recorded only one fire caused by a camping stove in the 12 months to May. However, the data compiled for the authority suggests that in the same period six fires were caused by 'swaling', which are controlled fires started by landowners to burn vegetation which got out of control.

Papers have been lodged by the landowners' lawyers in the high court asserting that the right of access granted by the Dartmoor Commons Act "does not include a right of wild camping." So it is all set to go to court and there have been many similar examples in the past of people buying big estates and trying to restrict people's access to footpaths and the countryside. I am just glad that the authorities at Dartmoor National Park are fighting this case and trust that they will win!

It is also important to get political support for our rights to access the countryside. Caroline Lucas (the only Green Party member in Parliament) is tabling in October 2022 a bill to allow the public

to access woodlands and the green belt in the same way they can currently walk on the coast path. This will mean that there will be a legal right of public access to rivers, woods and green belt land. Tens of thousands of acres of woodland have benefited from public subsidy, yet remain publicly inaccessible. Many people living in towns and cities especially in low-income don't have a car are to access the countryside and nature reserves. Those areas also tend to have fewer trees and smaller gardens.

No doubt there will be a fierce response from some members of this present government and landowners stating the public cause disruption to rural businesses and littering. Lucas says the argument around the so-called irresponsible public is a "distraction". She recently met Richard Benyon, the Tory peer in charge of access to nature (and also a significant landowner himself) and stated: "We had a long conversation about how we do more to allay understandable concerns about litter, dogs, all of the arguments that always come up when you talk about increasing access to nature. And it does seem ironic to me that the government has actually done quite a bit of work in terms of the countryside code and yet hasn't really bothered to publicise it." The fight must go on as probably this bill will be talked out in parliament.

<https://tinyurl.com/mr3z2tk2>

*J Elwyn Williams
Chair North Wales Area*

Greener options for your walking kit

Here are some options for extending the life of your walking kit for yourself or for passing them on for others to use. The longer we keep our clothing, tents and rucksacks going, the less we buy and the smaller our impact on the planet.

If you know of other shops that offer repair and recycling services please let us know so we can share the details and help us all to try to minimise our impact on the world while we keep doing what we love.

Alpkit (Betws-y-Coed)

This shop offers repairs; cleaning and reproofing and recycling of outdoor kit. Alpkit repair outdoor kit from any brand. For a price list visit: <https://alpkit.com/pages/repair-station>

Your waterproofs can be tech washed & reproofed. Their price list for this is on the same link.

They can also sell Nikwax® refill products.

Recycle: You can donate any item of outdoor clothing. You can drop donations off at the shop in Betws-y-Coed. All garments must be in good, clean, and functional condition. They

also recycle: Sleeping Bags, Sleeping mats, Walking poles, Tents, Rucksacks, Pots and pans, Bikes, Bike parts and accessories, Cycle clothing.

<https://alpkit.com/pages/continuum>

Cotswolds Outdoor offer the following services

- the Repair & Care service, to extend the life of the clothing you love. This is a send away service—details online <https://www.cotswoldoutdoor.com/>
- the Recycle my Gear service to keep your unwanted kit out of landfill—in store Betws-y-Coed

Remember Ramblers Members enjoy a 15% Discount online and instore.

You can also check directly with your clothing manufacturers to see if they offer repair services for their products.

Berghaus (postage cost only), Paramo and Patagonia will repair their kit. Patagonia also offer a wide range of online repair guides/ videos.

Secretary's report

North Wales Handbook

The Area Council meeting in June decided that we would publish the Handbook that has arrived with this mailing. We needed to send out annual reports and invite people to the January AGM (details in this newsletter) so there were no extra mailing costs. Also we want to provide up to date information and some walk details.

The booklet no longer includes all walks as many walk leaders prefer to put at least some of their walks in with shorter notice, 8 months is a long time to plan ahead. As well as the list of walks that have been planned in time for publication we have expanded the "Where to find our walks" section for finding these additional walks. We have a number of walking groups who are 'Affiliated Groups'. They pay an annual affiliation fee to the Ramblers. We have included some information about these as they do offer additional opportunities for led walks.

The change in name from 'Walks in North Wales, winter to summer 2023' to 'North Wales Ramblers Handbook, Ramblers information and walks, winter to summer 2023' reflects the changing content of this booklet and I hope you will find it a useful source of information to keep to hand.

Good News

The proposed **Wales Agriculture Bill** has 'maintaining and enhancing public access to the countryside' as one of the key purposes- this follows significant advocacy and lobbying work by Ramblers Cymru.

I was also pleased to see the aim for Sustainable Land Management at its core (including to produce foods and other goods in a sustainable manner, to mitigate and adapt to climate change, to maintain and enhance the resilience of our ecosystems and to conserve and enhance the Welsh countryside)

'Our paths Our future'

This campaign by Ramblers Cymru is a request to the Welsh Government that states:

"Walking is a simple pleasure that should be open to everyone. We are calling on the Welsh Government to provide better funding for access and paths ensuring everyone can enjoy a walk in nature."

This is linked to a request that part of the Active Travel budgets be set aside

for path maintenance and improvements. If you agree please sign the pledge at www.ramblers.org.uk/ourpathsourfuture

either before, during or after the event.

Council therefore calls upon the board to remove the requirement for written risk assessments of group walks and, in



Conwy Valley Ramblers at Traeth Lafan, near Llanfairfechan, celebrating 10 years of the Wales Coast Path. Photo: Joanna Slattery

Ten years of the Wales Coast Path

This year is the tenth anniversary of the Wales Coast Path. I hope that you have been able to celebrate by walking a part of it this year, however small, it is an inspiring achievement that we have to keep working to protect and improve.

I was lucky to be able to lead Conwy Valley group on a celebration walk on May 7th and to go to a Ramblers Cymru celebration in Barmouth in July.

Risk assessments for walks

This issue has still not been resolved. Our motion to remove the requirement for written risk assessments of group walks was joined with another so it read:

'Walk Leadership Requirements'

This General Council is gravely concerned that perceptions of bureaucracy are deterring leaders and potential leaders of group walks from offering their services.

Council calls upon the Board of Trustees to ensure that, except as required by any current legislation or in the event of an incident that seems likely to lead to an insurance claim, leaders are placed under no obligation to make or keep any written or electronic records relating to their walk,

doing so, to ensure that the absence of such records will not adversely affect the insurance cover provided for walk leaders.

This motion was carried but as yet no action has been taken (October 2022). Until a new insurance policy is secured, filling in and keeping the very brief Risk Assessment form provided by Ramblers means that your walk is covered by the insurance. This is available on the National and Area website.

Joanna Slattery
Area Secretary

All change

During my brief period as Area Sec, around 2000, I recall being asked by a Group Secretary whether, as a measure to help the group in an emergency, it would be appropriate to buy a mobile phone out of Group funds. Virtually nobody had their own device in those days.

I can't recall what answer I gave at the time but I remember thinking that they wouldn't catch on... PB

Area Footpath Secretary's report

Introduction

This year saw life returning to normal after and with Covid. During the previous 18 months there had been a significant increase in the numbers of people walking their local rights of way. This is to be welcomed. More people walking the paths means they tend to be kept free of overgrowth. It also means that there are more complaints about surface and problems with furniture. These vary from gates held up and tied with string to stiles that are very difficult to get over. This has increased pressure on the Councils to sort them out. They in turn have not received an increase in resources to deal with them.

In my experience, largely in the eastern half of North Wales, has been that usually issues are being quite effectively dealt with. Coupled with this has been money which has been available from Welsh Government to improve access through the replacement of stiles with kissing and walkers gates. I scarcely go out these days without coming across a new gate somewhere on the route. This brings extra pressures on the Rights of Way Depts who have to negotiate with the occupiers and sometimes the landowner. These can be very time consuming.

Local Access Forums

Access Forums were created under the CROW Act 2000 and have been in place since 2003. To begin with membership of them was quite easy to find. This was because they would be responsible for Rights of Way Improvements. Many occupiers saw this, mistakenly, as a chance to rationalise the rights of way on their land. The user members of the Forums saw the legislation as increasing and improving rights of way and access.

This meant that users (from walkers to trail bike users) were quite eager to join them. The occupiers and land managers gradually lost interest. Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIPs) had to be drawn up and approved by the LAFs. These were sent to the Welsh Government for approval and funding. Some Councils asked the LAF members for suggestions but most left it to their officers to draw up the plans. Often the plan was vague and nothing was known about individual projects until the media photo opportunity when the job had been

completed. For the last few years most North Wales councils have had difficulty recruiting members and have almost ceased. The only exceptions are Gwynedd and the Snowdonia National Park.

Initially and for the first 10 years the funding was quite generous sometimes exceeding the council maintenance budgets for rights of way. Since 2017 the grants have been still made but are reduced. The Welsh Government has now changed the criteria. To obtain full ROWIP funding from April 1st 2023 the Councils must have a fully functioning LAF. This should lead to a more pro-active approach by the Councils in encouraging people to join and make the meetings more meaningful.

Rights of Way and Access in Forests

When the Definitive Maps were being drawn up in the 1950s the Forestry Commission attempted to get some paths through their land removed. At the time the FC in North Wales was administered from an office in Shrewsbury. Fortunately both the Parish and County Councils resisted these pressures. Unfortunately though many did and do not fit in well with Forestry Operations. The majority of these do not pose major problems for walkers trying to follow a right of way. There is usually a convenient (and better) forest track that can be used. A few rights of way have not been fully available.

In 2006 the Ramblers met with Forestry Commission Wales which had now been devolved to Welsh Government. At this meeting a system was set up for Ramblers (and the General Public) to report problems to FC. These were often quickly dealt with. With the creation of Natural Resources Wales the FC became part of this organisation. NRW is under the control of a Welsh Government Minister.

The system set up by the 2006 discussions does not appear to be readily available. Complaints are not being dealt with. During the year another issue has emerged. This is access to and from Open Access land. Nearly all FC land is Open Access. Most of it is indicated on the OS Maps. On land which is held on lease this is not shown but access is still freely available. In one case that we are aware of there is locked gate on FC land that is preventing access within the area.

As the NRW is part of Welsh Gov-

ernment this unacceptable. The Welsh Government is promoting access and are (very slowly) planning to increase it within the country.

Llanllyfni 40

This is a footpath in Penygroes which was obstructed. Gwynedd Council initially refused to open it up. They changed their mind when we started legal proceedings in the Magistrates Court. After extensive delays the path has now been re-instated.

Lixwm Claim

The Inspector's decision was, after a seemingly pointless appeal, confirmed by her in January. The path is not yet open. The reason for this is not clear. We are pressing FCC to make this long established route a right of way once more.

Local Footpath Committees

Across the area we have seven footpath committees. These work with the local Councils and other groups to improve and monitor complaints. Most meet twice a year to identify and discuss issues. The Ramblers are not opposed to changes in the rights of way network. It is self defeating to oppose all changes in the network. Walkers do not generally like walking through farmyards and too close to people's property. A diversion, provided the route is of the same quality, is often welcome. Proposed diversions need to be checked by these committees. Volunteers to join them are always welcome.

An example of the work of this work is provided by Dave Collins of the Wrexham Committee. This concerns a footpath at Bronygarth near Chirk. A long standing issue with a path leading off Offa's dyke has been solved. Glyntraian 43 (1 km approx) was unusable and a permissive diversion existed parallel to it. Ramblers asked the council to replace Glyntraian 43 with a new PRoW on the permissive route. This has now passed the time limits for objections and the new path is to be signposted and shown on official maps.

Our committees are also willing to provide volunteer work parties. The most common activity is cutting back around stiles and gates (Permission is not required provided the tools are small.) Others are small maintenance jobs such as improving stiles and replacing some

Path priorities

Ron reports opposite on the outcome regarding reported obstructions on FP40, Llanllyfni. He was looking at routes to include in his books on circular walks from the North Wales Pilgrims' Way.

Gwynedd Council has a system for prioritising its network of public paths. There were originally five categories, now reduced to four. Part of the text describing a Cat 4 path reads:

'Path with no obvious benefit or potential and where a reasonable convenient alternative route exists on higher category paths.'

After reporting the obstructions nothing happened. On enquiry Ron was told that nothing would be done because the path was in Category 4, the lowest.

Gwynedd Council states in its own Public Rights of Way policy document that *'the Council has a duty under statute law to remove all obstructions and encroachments to PRoW. It has various powers under the Highways Act 1980 to serve notice on persons responsible for obstructions and to take other enforcement action.'*

The categories applied by Gwynedd to paths are not based on statute. They are a subjective assessment by an officer which leads inevitably, for lower category paths, to a self-fulfilling situation. Because the path is low category it gets no maintenance or other attention, and gets worse over the years.

Anyway, Ron served notice on the council under s.130A and it was only when he was about to pay the Magistrates Court fee for a court hearing that Gwynedd had a change of mind. He should not have had to go that far to get a solution.

Berwyn Group and Wrexham

Footpath Committee

Berwyn Group continues with an active walks programme, the AGM does not propose any committee changes. A Christmas lunch is to be held at the Mulberry Inn, Ceiriog Valley.

Wrexham footpath committee has now only three active members, but both members and council feel it is a useful forum and will continue to hold 3 meetings a year. A Section 130A notice will be served by Ramblers to speed up a long-standing footpath closure where the landowner is disobeying the decision of a public inquiry.

Dave Collins

[from page 4] with gates. This work was done with the approval of the Councils or the landowner.

Before the Pandemic we had two highly organised groups in North Wales. **Tim Tadio Llwybrau** which operates in the Arfon and Dwyfor area of Gwynedd and **Silver Slashers** on Ynys Môn. The work of these two groups is more extensive and uses power tools to tackle larger problems. They therefore require authorisation and supervision from the respective Councils. The Gwynedd team has yet to restart but this is probably due to a change of personnel at the council.

Silver Slashers have successfully restarted – the record of their work since January is on this page. The Area is grateful to Andria and the team for this work and the good promotion for the Ramblers.

Ron Williams
Area Footpath Secretary

Ynys Mon Work Party Stats

Stats for the period Jan to October 2022

- Volunteer Sessions 319
- 3 new younger volunteers recruited
- Hours Worked 1269.5
- Metres of Clearance 4081
- Gates Installed 13
- Stiles installed 8: 2 with dog gate attached
- Metres of boardwalk 378
- Waymarker Posts Installed 21
- Bridges Repaired 12
- New Bridge built - 1
- Metres of surface stoned -196
- Paths opened 28
- Metres of paths opened 13019

We are using plastic bearers, pegs and treads where possible for boardwalks and motorway barriers attached to plastic for bridges where feasible

We have had the following tools donated:

- Reciprocating Saw and two safety helmets £280
- Heavy Duty brushcutter £1030 works 3 times faster than current tools cuts gorse, blackthorn and brambles easily
- Impact driver £150
- Replacement Bow Saw Blades, 2 saws, 2 additional tape measures and 2 adjustable spanners £50

We have been featured in a Daily Post article on volunteers, on a Coast and Country TV programme and supplied images for a BBC programme broadcast for Ramblers Cymru to try to get funds for future path improvements in Wales

Andria Massey
Footpath Secretary and Access Officer
Ynys Mon Ramblers Group

Membership Report

Membership has increased slightly but has remained broadly the same throughout 2022.

The membership numbers by group are also constant, there are 36 North Wales Area members who could benefit by moving their membership to their local group.

Affiliated clubs number 5, Holywell Ramblers are shown as Lapsed.

Dave Coliins
Membership Secretary

LW01	Clwydian	167
LW02	Conwy Valley	233
LW03	Ynys Môn	152
LW04	Wrexham	119
LW06	Meirionnydd	107
LW07	Berwyn	61
LW08	Vale of Clwyd	162
LW09	Deeside	116
LW10	Eryri	199
LW96	North Wales Area membership	36
	Grand total	1352

Area Treasurer's Report 2022

Income *

Our income for the year was £5686 made up from Central Office grants of £5250, royalties from Watt's Dyke Way publication of £49. Also included in this figure are the donations received for the Arthur Roberts memorial, £362 and £25 donation for a talk given by Ron Williams.

Expenditure *

Our total expenditure for the year was £7243. Two walks programmes were produced and two area newsletters which cost £4059 and £765 respectively. £1252 was paid in group grants, £315 for meetings and admin. The Arthur Roberts memorial was finalised at a total cost of £852, funded entirely by donations.

Summary

Starting to get back to normal after the Covid 19 pandemic, with a bit more activity on the accounts (and on the hills). Financially the area remains in a healthy position. We ended the year with a balance of £11437.84, which includes the £761.90 in the Watt's Dyke Way account.

Many thanks to the individuals who donated to the AR memorial: P Bland, R Williams, H White, J E Williams, S Fermor and also to the Friends of the Clwydian Hills AONB. And a big thank you to Ron Williams for his hard work, making it happen.

Finally I am grateful to all the group treasurers for their returns etc when asked, usually with very little prompting.

Jeff Nagle
Area Treasurer

* Figures rounded up

Ramblers Association - North Wales Area					
Year ending 30th September 2022					
Receipts and Payments at _____					
Receipts	2021/22	2020/21	Payments	2021/22	2020/21
Central Office	5,250.00	3,000.00	Groups Grants	1,252.00	1,778.00
			Walks Programme	4,059.16	
			Newsletters/Publicity	764.96	2,161.84
Publication Sales	49.80	51.00	Book Sale Expenses	-	-
Advertising Sales	25.00		Footpaths	-	75.40
Arthur Roberts memorial	362.00	490.00	Countryside Protection	-	42.00
			Access	-	-
			Meetings (inc AGM)	315.66	136.80
			Admin	-	1.50
			Flexi Groups		
			Arthur Roberts Memorial	852	
			Watts Dyke Way		383.86
Total Receipts	5,686.80	3,541.00	Total Payments(exWDW)	7,243.78	4,579.40
Surplus(+)/deficit(-)	- 1,556.98	- 1,038.40			
Bank reconciliation					
	2021/22	2020/21			
B/Fwd 1 Oct 20114798	12994.82	14,033.22			
Surplus(+)/deficit(-)	- 1,556.98	- 1,038.40			
Watt's Dyke Way	- 761.90	- 1,145.76			
Available Bal at 30 Sept	10,675.94	11,849.06			
Bank balance at 30th Sept	11437.84	12994.82			
Signed:	Honorary Treasurer: Jeff Nagle				
Signed:	Independent Examiner: Martin Hughes				

Paths to Wellbeing

NW Summary – Jun-Oct

During the initial consultation phase, a common theme across all three communities was a desire to bring people together from all different walks of life to celebrate and enjoy local green spaces, whilst building community connectivity. Since June, we've been working to make this a reality by providing a wide range of walks, citizen science days, and educational outdoor workshops to showcase the many different ways that we can all enjoy the outdoors.

Whether searching the heathlands of Penmaenmawr for rare bumblebees, spotting nesting swifts on the streets of Holyhead, or learning navigation skills at Gwaith Powdwr in Penrhyndeudraeth, we've had a great time getting to know local people with a wide range of skills and interests this Summer!

Across the region, we have engaged with over 150 participants so far, and taken measures to improve biodiversity along paths by creating wildflower meadows and removing invasive plants. We're now planning to deliver targeted access improvements on paths in the area over the final project period from December to May, which will provide great opportunities connect new volunteers to connect with the wider Ramblers community and develop their skills for footpath maintenance.

Behind the scenes, we've been working with landowners, local government, and other key stakeholders to develop collaborative solutions to solve issues with the path network. With Autumn now upon us, we're hoping to see these plans come to fruition as they translate into gates, waymarks, and more work on the ground. We've also been putting together a "Route Guide" for each of the 8 community trails in Penmaenmawr that have been developed as part of the project. We are preparing to distribute these using our upcoming website, leaflet, and interpretation board in time for us to guide more walks and showcase the improved paths in Spring 2023.

Current/Upcoming Work:

Holy Island:

In partnership with Ynys Mon council, we have been working to restore a lost path leading from Holyhead to adjacent countryside. This will form part of a "Paths to Wellbeing" community

route, linking with 2 areas of "Special Scientific Interest". Silver Slashers volunteers have already cleared around 100 m of vegetation (mostly blackthorn) from the site. will soon be installing new gates to replace blocked stiles on either side. We're also working with the landowners to replace other furniture on the route as part of a minor diversion, ensuring that the path is as accessible as possible.

The Ynys Cybi Environmental Networking Group, set up in collaboration with NWWT at the beginning of the project, met again in October to plan our next round of local education and outreach events for the New Year. This also provided an opportunity to bring our new "Put Your Foot Down, Make Your Mark" campaign to Holyhead. At our next volunteer day (November 18th), we will be working to reinstate a circular route near South Stack, in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy and the RSPB.

Penrhyndeudraeth:

We are working with Gwynedd council and local landowners to improve accessibility, stock-proofing and safety of walking routes around Penrhyndeudraeth. Our next volunteer day (November 15th), will be focused on improving Llanfrothen council's route #3 (Gwenllian ar Wern) including by replacing several stiles with gates, repairing damaged furniture, and adding new waymark posts.

This Winter, we will also be working with Y Dref Werdd and Penrhyndeudraeth community council to plan fruit trees in new locations throughout Penrhyndeudraeth, providing more opportunities for local people enjoy green spaces and improve well-being.

Penmaenmawr:

We have just reached agreement with local landowners to install several new gates throughout the path network surrounding Penmaenmawr. This will include restoring gated access to Coed Pendyffryn/Allt Wen and improving accessibility of paths connecting local communities to Conwy Mountain and National routes such as the North Wales Path and Cambrian way. We're hoping to begin site preparations as part of our next volunteer day on the 16th of November.

To improve biodiversity along local routes, we're working with the National Park and local volunteer groups to put together a schedule of tree planting days

throughout the winter, which we hope will create habitat for wildlife and future generations of walkers to enjoy. We've also been helping local churches and volunteer groups to create new habitat for pollinators by sowing native wildflowers and look forward to seeing the results next spring!

Max Henderson

NE Wales (June-October)

This quarter has seen Biodiversity targets met by way of four big butterfly counts taking place across the north east region. The small wildflower meadow planted in Flintshire last quarter has been extended as it was so successful, so backing was given to double its size. Preparations have been made for the sowing of a quarter acre plot early next quarter in Denbighshire. A citizen science activity was also held in the summer holidays with a Denbighshire holiday club looking for and recording minibeasts. We also participated in a school visit to Llanbenwch caravan park with combined fitness activities and species identification activities. This involved around 65 children from Ysgol Pen Barras. Two activity sessions were also held to make bird boxes. One with Ruthin Brownies and one with Asprics education- an autism specialist college in Wrexham. Work is underway to site these boxes in Plas Power Woods, Wrexham and Eyarth Rocks, Denbighshire.

Across the three counties six events were held to tackle Himalayan Balsam.

In terms of physical targets in this quarter 8 gates have been installed. As well as our regular volunteers we have had help from Llysfasi college agriculture students, The Wallich, Homelessness project clients, Caia Park men's group and one of our local assembly members. In addition to this various vegetation clearance events were held including a section of trail in Llanfynydd that has been impassable for many years and a stile in Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd that had been swallowed up by the hedge.

A sculpture bench for Maes Offa in Flintshire has been designed and commissioned and waymark discs have been designed for all three communities using an art club, Caia Park youth Club and Miri Meithrin holiday club.

Heather Martin

Eryri Walk Leader of the Year 2022



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'. He also led up Cnicht, Garnedd Ugain, Crib Goch, Cribau on Lliwedd, Bristly Ridge and the Glyderau.

Richard Hirst, 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.

Eryri Group

Pluses and Minuses

Bodelwyddan FP 8 goes from St Asaph to Pengwern. There are two issues with this path. At the northern end it is obstructed and the southern end stops at a dual carriageway on the A525. A proposal for a Solar Farm would have meant an improvement at this end of the path. After a Public Inquiry the the Inspector

approved the planning application for the development. The Welsh Government Minister however overruled this decision as it would have meant a loss of Grade 1 agricultural land. It is rare for a Minister to overrule an Inspector's decision.

RW

Mawddach Terrace

footpath inquiry

This significant dispute will be decided at a public inquiry in Dolgellau starting at 10:00 am on **Tuesday 14th February 2023**. The venue is **Glan Wnion Leisure Centre, Glan Wnion Arran Road, Dolgellau, LL40 1LH**. The inquiry is expected to last several days.

Gwynedd Council made an Order adding a 1 Km length of length of public footpath from the front of the estuary facing terrace, Mawddach Crescent, and across an embankment to Barmouth Bridge. Apart from the risk of losing what is the main route for Arthog residents to access essential services in Barmouth and a very popular walk for Barmouth residents and tourists, the route is mentioned in several editions of the historic Ward Lock guidebooks.

Much argument will revolve around signage (e.g. 'private road') and whether this was aimed at vehicles or pedestrians. One complicating factor is the use of the Terrace during WW2 by the marines

Readers may have seen the Terrace (SH631148) in a TV programme fronted by Julia Bradbury when she was walking along the Mawddach estuary.

PB

North Wales Ramblers AGM

Our AGM will be on **Saturday 14th Jan 2023, 2pm to 5pm** at **Llanrhos Old School, Conwy Road, Llanrhos, LL30 1RW**, (near Llandudno). The old school is almost opposite St Hilary's church.

The agenda and list of officers will be on the website shortly. If possible please let the chair know if you will be standing or re-standing for a post. Nominations will also be taken on the day.

chair@ramblersnorthwales.org.uk

The AGM is your opportunity to have your say and includes the election of officers; questions about the annual reports in this newsletter; motions submitted in advance to the secretary. secretary@ramblersnorthwales.org.uk

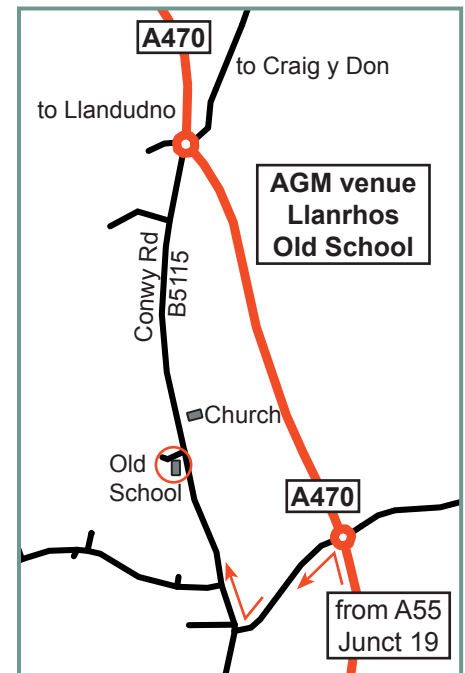
There will then be refreshments and a guest speaker—**Peter Rutherford** from Snowdonia National Park Authority.

We are looking forward to having a face to face meeting but please do not attend if you have possible COVID symptoms.

Grid ref is SH 7928 8021, or if you need Lat /Long for Google maps etc use **53.30504, -3.81299**

Directions from the A55 Junction 19. Head north towards Llandudno on the main A470. At the **third roundabout** from J19, take the first exit (Crogrfryn Lane). After 300m you reach Conwy Rd – turn right and follow Conwy Rd for another 350m. The Old School is on the left

Parking in the Community Centre is very limited so *please park on Conwy Road as well* - but not the side road (Cae Rhos) which is for residents.



Published for North Wales Ramblers, LL30 1PS. Layout by Scrooge Graphics 12 /2022

Views expressed in this publication by individual authors do not necessarily represent the official view of Ramblers Cymru.

The Ramblers' Association is a registered charity (England & Wales no 1093577) and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales (no 4458492). Registered office: 1 Clink Street, 3rd Floor, London, England, SE1 9DG

Printed by: W O Jones Printers, Ltd, Llangefni, LL77 7JA. Tel. 01248 750253