

New Boardwalk at Llyn Maelog

Some really good news about funding. SACC Highways Department has received £150,000 from the Anglesey Shared Prosperity Fund to replace the boardwalk at Llyn Maelog, which starts at SH321727 near Rhosneigr.

Without this grant the deteriorating boardwalk would have had to be taken up as the Council did not have sufficient funds to repair it.

The work needs to be completed by December 2024 and the contractors will use a mixture of plastic and mill board to build the replacement which should last a considerable time longer than the current wooden one. This is one of the very few places on Anglesey which allows access to disabled people.

Andria Massey

Denbighshire Project

Ramblers Cymru has been awarded funding from Denbighshire County Council's allocation of the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, which will support a Community Outreach project to help communities improve their paths and access.

The one year project that runs until December 2024 will work to encourage local people in the two community areas that have been selected. These are Llandrillo & Corwen in the south and Trem-eirchion & Denbigh in the north. Most of the work will be focussed on the villages but the larger towns have been included so that we can increase the scope of the community outreach work to include a wider variety of community groups.

Like the Paths to Wellbeing project there will be practical path improvement days, training delivery sessions, mapping, and promotion of routes, led walks and youth engagement.

Consultation has been carried out over the last few months and possible



(above) Start of the boardwalk to Llyn Maelog (photo: Pearl Bucknall)

(below) View over Vale of Clwyd from Graig Nature Reserve (photo: Heather Martin)



routes to be promoted are being mapped and surveyed. Launch events have taken place in each community, and I am gathering a list of volunteers who would like to be involved in practical path improvement days.

Some youth engagement projects have also been planned to work with Corwen Scouts and St Brigid's Duke of Edinburgh students.

If you would like to be involved, please contact

heather.martin@ramblers.org.uk

Right to Roam 2023

The COVID restrictions demonstrated how power and responsibilities have been devolved down to the different nations of the UK. Each nation had different restrictions. Recently in a bid to highlight Scotland's far more generous rights of access to the countryside, around 40 campaigners walked through boggy, dense woodland to arrive at an earth dyke north of Carlisle which once marked the medieval border. They staged a symbolic trespass through private land on the English-Scottish border on the Scots Dyke, built in 1552. The organiser was standing with one leg in England and the other in Scotland. So the left leg was lawful but the right leg unlawful! According to the Guardian newspaper, the Right to Roam campaign is pinning its hopes on Labour following through on its recent pledges to replicate Scotland's access laws for England and Wales if it wins power at the next election.

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 established long-standing traditions

of free access, subject to restrictions to protect private gardens and work such as forestry. In England and Wales, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 is far more restrictive with comparative limited rights which are also unequal. The act allows free access to only 8% of England and Wales, chiefly along defined paths or designated open land such as national parks. But that leads to hugely unequal levels of access for people to their local areas. While 72% of the Peak District has open access, that falls to 0.6% in Kent. Recent analysis by the New Economics Foundation and the Ramblers shows deep social inequalities regarding access to designated rights of way in England and Wales with people in the richest areas having 80% more paths. Ramblers GB have highlighted these inequality issues in their new strategy.

This idea was criticised by rural campaign groups including the National Farmers' Union. The chief executive of the Countryside Alliance stated that a

right to roam policy as an "attack on the countryside". However a recent poll showed 62% of the public support a Scottish-style right to roam for England. There is majority of support for a right to roam in England across voters of every major party affiliation. I will shortly be attending a Paths and Partners event sponsored by the Cross Party Group on access of the Welsh Government. Lobbying the political parties is very important in obtaining political support for improved access to the countryside in Wales.

We will have a general election in the next year so if any political party knocks on your door, ask them what they think of increasing access to the countryside and that we want a Scottish style right to roam in Wales. As we know walkers have never been scared of mass trespass to highlight access issues!

J Elwyn Williams
Chairman, North Wales Area

Secretary's report

Nationally the Ramblers UK have been carrying out two reviews.

'Strategic Review'

The new strategic plan "sets out the refreshed ambitions of the Ramblers as a charity over the next decade". This has been ratified at the Ramblers Extraordinary General Meeting in November.

This does not seem a big change for our groups and in many ways it builds on what Ramblers Cymru has been doing including in the Paths to Wellbeing projects. It seeks to *open the way for everyone to enjoy the simple pleasures of walking...*

'We want to continue to prioritise the protection of paths and access rights for all, and go further by helping those who face the most barriers to walking outdoors in nature.'

Safety on Group Walks

The Area Chair and I have been involved in the Safety on Group Walks – Volunteer Working Group. A draft handbook will have gone to walk leaders in November for consultation/feedback (see page 3). It seems likely that there will be less emphasis on risk assessments but that

other things may be required from Walk Leaders. The plan is for a final version to be ready in February 2024. It is important that Walk Leaders keep filling in the Risk assessment forms (available on the Area and national website) to comply with the current insurance.

Ramblers Wales

I have come off the RCSG (*Ramblers Cymru Steering Group*). It is very helpful to have one or more people from North Wales on this so please consider joining and getting to see what is happening in the Ramblers across Wales. There will be elections at the Ramblers Cymru AGM in April.

Area Sec post

At our AGM in January (see back page) I will be stepping down as Area Secretary but I am willing (if it helps us to fill the role) to split the role and do the meeting notices and minute taking.

Other aspects of the role will need to be picked up by a new secretary. If you would like to know what this might involve please get in touch.

Joanna Slattery
Area Secretary

Path Accessibility

Fund

Gill Caves (Meirionnydd Group) writes to tell me that the Group obtained a grant of about £1500 from this fund for some improvements, replacing stiles with self-closing gates on a path near Llanfihangel-y-Pennant.

The fund owes its existence to a generous legacy and more information can be found on page 14 of Walk magazine (Winter 2023) and perhaps your own Group could think of a project or two which might benefit from a similar grant
Ed.

Conwy Valley Annual Lunch — Correction

There was an error in the bank details stated in the CV newsletter, so here is the correct info for making payment for your lunch:

Sort Code 60-83-01

Account No 20115360

Payee: The Ramblers Association
(LW2) Conwy Valley Group
RCN 1093577

Reference - [your name] + MEAL

New Guidance for walk leaders

In November a draft Walk Leader Guidance was sent to all walk leaders and groups

Since the spring, Ramblers have been working on new guidance for walk leaders to help us “lead safe, enjoyable and welcoming walks”. This was partly a response by the Board of Trustees to their review of risk assessments and what might be needed in their place.

An expert consultant, research data and a volunteer working party have been used in this process (Elwyn and I were on the working party). It is the second draft that was circulated widely for consultation.

A further document will be produced in the new year with the aim of having new procedures in place in March.

There are lots of good points made in the draft but for me there is far too much repetition and most of the suggestions/requirements, for most walks, should just be advice. This should be a guidance document to remind/advice walk leaders what they can do to make walks safer-building on the good practise of existing walk leaders and this does seem to be what was intended.

It seems the wording of the docu-



ment did not come across this way for many leaders and hopefully there will be significant changes made as well as an additional short version, maybe similar to the Walk Leader checklist.

Conwy Valley group decided to cancel all their walks from the implementation date of March 2024 until they know what will be required of leaders. Six CV walks for after this date are printed

in the handbook. These have been taken off Walk Manager. Hopefully the next version will reassure leaders and these will be restored.

Walk leaders have a duty of care but as walking is a very low risk activity this needs to be proportionate. Walk participants also have a role in helping make our walks safer.

It may be appropriate to discuss this at the AGM in January but it may not be relevant depending on whether anything further has been published by that time.

Joanna Slattery

If you haven't already seen it the draft guidance document (version 2.01) can be obtained via the 'Assemble' online portal, or via your Group Officers.

One comment, made to me by an experienced walk leader, was that the guidance 'would be very good if we were setting up a company of professional guides'. Some may find it too prescriptive, and overkill for typical Group walks. The suggested ratios for leaders to walkers seem quite restrictive - e.g. 1:8 for a leisurely walk.

Ed.

The Ramblers Conwy County Committee could do with some new members! The main responsibilities of the group are making sure planning applications do not detrimentally affect rights of way and ensuring that Conway County Borough Council fulfils its obligation to keep paths free of obstructions.

Being involved on the committee is not very hard. It involves sometimes

going out to check and report on footpaths and meeting with each other about three or four meeting a year. No specialist knowledge is needed - just enthusiasm for ensuring the wonderful network of rights of way of this country is kept open for everyone to enjoy.

Please consider joining. Interested? Want to find out more? Send an email or phone Kevin Slattery (07503 139257,

kevinslattery1@yahoo.co.uk), John Buckley (01745 540370, johnandritabuckley@gmail.com), Hilary Davies (hilary_davies@hotmail.com) Ian and Linda Fraser (iansbfraser@gmail.com). Being part of the team is not onerous and it is most satisfying when paths that have been illegally obstructed or that have illegal misleading signs are once again made usable.

JB

Membership report

Comparison of membership over the past year shows almost no change overall, but growth for some groups and a decline for others. There has been a steady flow of new members in our Area, and these are roughly balanced by losses.

This picture is common across the whole of Ramblers and was mentioned in recent briefings about strategy. Again, reflecting the national profile, it appears that fewer than half our members are active walk participants, while the remainder support us for our campaigning work on footpaths.

Please contact me if you have any questions about your group's membership:

membership@ramblersnorthwales.org.uk

Dave Collins, Membership Secretary.

Group	Dec 2023	Dec 2022
LW01 Clwydian Group	159	167
LW02 Conwy Valley Group	231	233
LW03 Ynys Mon Group	143	152
LW04 Wrexham Group	120	119
LW06 Meirionnydd Group	103	107
LW07 Berwyn Group	65	61
LW08 Vale of Clwyd Group	155	162
LW09 Deeside Group	109	116
LW10 Eryri Group	216	199
LW96 North Wales Area Membership	50	36
Grand Total	1351	1352

Area Footpath Secretary's report

Llandrillo 40 and Cadwst

There is a missing link of about 40 metres in the path network at Cadwst Farm (SJ033355). The farmer is also claiming that the right of way does not exist. He had also, some years ago, built a large building across the line of the right of way.

In 2022 in he put in a planning application to extend this building. Denbighshire Committee objected to this development. This has resulted in the whole network in and around the farm being looked at.

This is in the area south of Llandrillo which has very good walking and horse riding potential.

There are three other issues in this area that need to be sorted out. On the plus side the forestry in the area is privately owned by several independent people and organisations. These are largely managed by Tillhill who allow informal public access.

Bodelwyddan FP8

This is a long-standing problem. We believe that the line of the path on the Definitive Map is incorrect. It also goes through the grounds of Pengwern Hall College. From the 1960s this was owned by MENCAP but is now run by an organisation called Cambian who state:

"Cambian specialist education services are improving the outcomes of children and young people every day. Our schools and colleges provide support to children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Asperger Syndrome, Moderate and Severe Learning Difficulties, Social, Emotional Mental Health and Complex Needs."

The path goes into the college grounds and through a security gate. Most of the path is on land owned by Pengwern Hall Farm. The occupiers of the farm are willing to divert the path to correct the mapping anomaly and to take the line to the roadside of the security gate.

This effectively takes the line of the path outside the college grounds. We met the farmer and agreed that we would not object to this diversion. This was in March 2016. As part of the deal the farmer requested a land swap with the college. Although Cambian agreed it still has not gone through. There have been further complications that have added to the delay.

We have informed Denbighshire CC that if progress is not made on publication of a consultation by the end of the year we will issue a formal notice under Section 130A to deal with obstructions.

Castell Aberlleiniog path

This little-known 11th century Norman castle (SH616793) is in Llangoed, on the east coast of Anglesey. The ruins are now owned by Menter Môn, who have dedicated a couple of new paths improving access to the site.

An additional path connecting the Castle to the coast at Lleiniog was claimed by a local resident, supported by user evidence, but opposed by the developer of housing close to the coast.

Ynys Môn Council refused the request to make an order adding the path to the Definitive Map, and the applicant has appealed. The matter will be decided by a planning inspector appointed by Welsh Government. If the inspector tells the council to make the order, it is likely that there will be objections and (eventually) a public inquiry.

Penrhos Coastal Park

Penrhos Coastal Park (SH275805) is a recreational area on Holy Island, just north of the A55. It was land previously owned by Anglesey Aluminium, and that company had encouraged public access to the area and helped create a nature reserve. It is very popular.

Following the demise of Anglesey Aluminium the Park is now owned by Land and Lakes Ltd who in 2013 obtained planning permission to build a 'leisure village' on about half of the area which is currently available to the public.

Locals organised a campaign to retain the whole area as one with public access and asked Ramblers whether some of the paths within Penrhos Park could be claimed as public.

I made two site visits to the Park, one to meet local campaigners, and one with Pete Bland to check out some of the routes which might be claimed.

We concluded that path claims might be difficult because:

- path claims need to start (and usually finish) at an existing public highway and most visitors park beyond the end of the nearest road.
- the former road network was re-arranged when the Aluminium plant was constructed

- although a section of the Anglesey Coast Path runs around the site, this was dedicated only quite recently
- crucially, the encouragement of public access by Anglesey Aluminium post c.1966 implies permission, and this goes against claiming use of a path 'as of right'. This would also impact a possible claim for area-based access, e.g. as a village green.

Oldest obstruction? Ysceifiog FP13

This path starts at SJ130713, just south of the Craft Centre at Afonwen, on the A541. Obstructions on the lower section of the path were listed on a Ramblers schedule of obstructions dated 1996, and *had been reported to the old Clwyd CC as early as 1989!*

Problems in deciding exactly where the paths runs had received intermittent attention in the past, but with no definite solution. Following a change in land ownership it can now be reported that the line of the path has been agreed, the path is fully open and necessary gates will be installed by FCC. Good news!

Ron Williams
Area FP Secretary

Deganwy Level Crossing

At the time the last newsletter went to press in June 2023 the consultant engineers appointed by Transport for Wales (TfW), AECOM, had completed an exercise, known as 'WelTAG', to assess the different options and come up with recommendations. The task given to the 'Working Group' was finished.

The top of the list of options suggested by AECOM was a stepped bridge. A more accessible ramped bridge would present difficulties with the amount of space required. A reinstated level crossing, at right-angles to the railway, would require a reduction in the line speed at the crossing - currently 50 mph. Network Rail were very much opposed to this possibility, stressing the bureaucratic obstacles which needed to be overcome. All of the options would have funding implications but it was not AECOM's job to address that aspect.

Well, we are six months on and not much further forward. We were told by TfW that Network Rail had some further work (unspecified) to do before the final

Footpath reports (continued)

WelTAG report was sent to the Minister. TfW were due to meet Network Rail but we haven't heard whether that has taken place or the result.

Meanwhile, the current temporary closure order on the FP crossing is due to expire on 15 December and is likely to be renewed - yet again! A number of interested parties** have sent a joint letter to Lee Waters, the Deputy Minister protesting about the situation.

*** Richard Brunstrom QPM as chair of the Conwy Estuary Trail Users Group, Pete Bland for Ramblers Cymru, Julian Pitt for Deganwy Ratepayers Assoc and Kevin Slattery as chair of the Deganwy History Group.*

PB

Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs)

When path volunteers refer to a 'TRO' they usually mean a closure under a temporary TRO, which for footpaths and bridleways can only last for 6 months before they have to be extended - with the consent of Welsh Government. Orders (and extensions) have to be advertised in the local press.

TROs are most often used to close highways when there is a safety issue. The most common use is for emergency safety reasons, in which case the route can be closed by Notice for up to 21 days, after which there must be an advertised Order.

Developers often apply for a TRO to secure a site during the construction phase, generally for up to 6 months. At the end of this period the developer can apply for an extension.

A TRO can also be used to enable repairs or improvements to a footpath; this often means a bridge or other structure. If the work is planned then the initial Order can be for longer than six months. TROs are however open to abuse.

The problem is with the extensions. Some local housing developers do not ask for them at all, they simply put in a minor diversion and re-open the path as soon as possible. Others want the path closed until the development is completed. The issue so far as the users and community councils are concerned is that these extensions are rarely consulted upon and you might conclude that the council did not properly scrutinise whether there was a real need for the TRO / extension.

In recent years there have been

several abuses. These include Burley Hill Quarry in Maeshafn Denbighshire which is now closed: a planning application to make the face safe (effectively an extension of the quarry) was turned down some years ago. In 2022 another planning application was made for the same reason. At the same time they applied for a TRO because the path was unsafe. The path was closed but no work was done to bring the path back into use and a six month extension was granted. Again there was no work to get the path back into use. The TRO was about to run out again so we objected to both Denbighshire CC and Welsh Government. The path has now reopened.

Meliden FP 204 was closed to allow a housing development. At the end of the six months we were actually consulted by DCC. When we investigated the path was not affected by the development but was obstructed by the developer's rubbish.

The Chain Bridge at Betws y Coed has been closed for nearly two years. The worst example though is in Flintshire where Treuddyn 26 has been closed for 23 years following a landslide.

I request support to put a motion to Welsh Council to tighten up this process so that path users are consulted at every extension.

Ron Williams

Arthog Public Inquiry

This case concerned a path passing in front of **Mawddach Terrace**, a very picturesque location on the south side of the Mawddach estuary. The Inquiry commenced on 14 February 2023 at Dolgellau. It was scheduled to last for four days, but that was grossly optimistic! The large sports hall used for the inquiry had terrible acoustics which made it difficult to hear what was being said.

Huw Roberts claimed in 2014 to have the route recognised as a public FP and had gathered a large number of witnesses who had used the route, plus evidence regarding historic use of the route.

The county council can decide to go 'neutral' for an Inquiry, leaving the case to be argued by the applicant and the objectors. That didn't happen here, but it might have been better if it had.

Before the Order was made by Gwynedd Council adding the path to the map, the case had to be considered by the council's Planning Committee. It was originally scheduled for 05/02/2018 and the officer report mentioned one of the

main tests which had to be satisfied:

'If having considered all the relevant available evidence and on a balance of probabilities public footpath rights are reasonably alleged to exist over the route, the Authority will be obliged to make a Definitive Map Modification Order to register the route on the Definitive Map.'

The case was actually considered at committee on 25/06/2018 and it transpired that the officer report had been altered to remove the reference to the 'reasonably alleged' test. Refusal was recommended but councillors voted to approve the application after heated discussion. There was another meeting on 29/04/2019 when adding a section of path to Barmouth Bridge was approved. The Order was made on 11/06/2019.

Anyway, back to the Inquiry. By the end of first day it was clear that counsel for the objectors, Stephen Whale, was not going to be rushed and that it would take a long time to examine and cross-examine all the witnesses.

Gwynedd was nominally supporting the order, but their only witness, Wyn Williams, made it clear that he thought the order should not have been made, and he hadn't changed his mind on this. With supporters like this ...!

Witnesses were asked about (e.g.):

- The period and frequency of their use
- When were signs erected at the start of Mawddach Crescent? Were they aimed at pedestrians or only cars?
- Whether owners at the Terrace and the surrounding land had ever challenged walkers
- Whether the descriptions in the Ward Lock guides referred to a route in front of the Terrace or behind it.

After the first few days the inquiry was adjourned, and it resumed in virtual fashion in March, via Microsoft Teams. There was another adjournment and resumption in April before an end was reached.

The inspector did not reach her decision on the case until October, which hints at the sheer volume of evidence before the inquiry, which there is no space to describe here, and to her difficulty in weighing that evidence. She decided NOT to confirm the order, and so Huw has lost his case.

The inspector decided that there had been unreasonable behaviour by Gwynedd Council, but she awarded no costs to the objectors.

Pete Bland

Area Accounts 2023

Ramblers Association - North Wales Area					
Year ending 30th September 2023					
<u>Receipts</u>	2022/23	2021/22	<u>Payments</u>	2022/23	2021/22
Central Office	7,000.00	3,000.00	Groups Grants	2,672.00	1,778.00
			Walks Programme	3,953.45	-
			Newsletters/Publicity	509.15	2,161.84
Publication Sales	64.80	51.00	Book Sale Expenses	-	-
Advertising Sales	30.00	-	Footpaths	347.55	75.40
Arthur Roberts memorial	-	490.00	Countryside Protection	-	42.00
			Access	-	-
			Meetings (inc AGM)	601.90	136.80
			Admin	264.00	1.50
			Flexi Groups		
			Arthur Roberts Memorial		
			Watts Dyke Way		383.86
Total Receipts	7,094.80	3,541.00	Total Payments(exWDW)	8,348.05	4,579.40
Surplus(+)/deficit(-)	- 1,253.25	- 1,038.40			
Bank reconcillation					
		2021/22			
B/Fwd 1 Oct 20114798	11437.84	12994.82			
Surplus(+)/deficit(-)	- 1,253.25	- 1,038.40			
Watt's Dyke Way	761.90	761.90			
Available Bal at 30 Sept	10,184.59	10,675.94			
Bank balance at 30th Sept	10184.59	11437.84			
Signed:	Honorary Treasurer: Jeff Nagle				
Signed:	Independent examiner M Hughes				
Date:	Address:				

Area Treasurer's Report 2023

INCOME *

Our income for the year was £7095 made up from Central office grants of £7000, royalties from Wat's Dyke Way publication of £65. Also included in this figure is £30 donation for a talk given by Ron Williams (shown as advertising sales).

EXPENDITURE *

Our total expenditure for the year was £8348. Two walks programmes were produced and two area newsletters which cost £3953 and £509 respectively. £2936 was paid in group grants, £601 meetings and admin.

SUMMARY

Financially the area remains in a healthy position. We ended the year with a balance of £10,184.59, which includes the £761.90 in the Wat's Dyke Way account.

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

Jeff Nagle
Area Treasurer

* Figures rounded up

Glyntraian 39

Readers with good memories may remember legal battles over this fine path leading from the Ceiriog Valley up to Caedicws Farm (SJ200358) and joining a minor road. The owners disputed the existence of the path but failed after applying to have it 'deleted' (public inquiry 2004). There was a later Diversion Order to take the path out of the farmyard (2010) but problems were still being reported.

It now appears that following the death of one of the owners Caedicws Farm is on the market for £1.8m! It is hoped that this will mark the end of any problems using FP 39.

PB

Why do you walk?

Well, why wouldn't you when you live in North Wales? You have stunning scenery, history and wildlife as well.

Whether you look for the majestic views or small details, walk for company or solitude, to give yourself time to think or to switch off



Whether you choose to walk in mountains, parks, coast or footpaths. There is so much choice and by being a Ramblers member you are helping make sure that choice and access remains.

Walking helps me to cope with day to day pressures, especially my role as a carer. Knowing I could get a phone call at any time, even on a walk is a challenge. I put things in place and set off hoping that it all works out. The physical activity and the distractions of scenery and company or navigation tasks all help me to lose myself in the walk but not hopefully not where I am on the walk!!

I return, more relaxed and definitely refreshed.



You might even find poetry on a remote bridge!!

Joanna Slattery



All photos on this page are by Joanna Slattery

Ynys Môn Path Stats

Notices and Consultations 2022 - 2023

- Extinguishments 1
- Additional Footpaths Creations and Additions 1
- Diversions 23
- Modifications 0
- Orders Confirmed 7
- Temporary Closures 2
- Notice of Temp Closure Order Extension 3

Footpath Problems Reported

I have received a total of 32 footpath problems reported this year, ACC have given/will be giving a few to the volunteers to solve. Following a Facebook posting, ACC have installed three metal H frame stiles with dog gates.

Work Party Stats Jan to Oct 2023

- Volunteer Sessions 291 3 new younger volunteers recruited
- Hours Worked 1168 Average Turnout 8
- Metres of Clearance - 5014
- Gates Installed Wooden -1 Metal - 14 Wicket -7 Total 22
- Stiles installed 3- plastic 8 - Metal 3 with dog gate attached
- Metres of boardwalk installed and repaired - 1178
- Waymarker Posts Installed - 41
- Bridges Repaired - 17
- Metres of surface stoned - 48
- Fencing repaired - 49m
- Path Widened/surface improved - 20m
- Path edging - 16m
- Paths opened/improved - 59
- Metres of paths opened - 26,101

Andria Massey

Footpath Maintenance Statistics Recorder

Afon Cynfal Hydro?



The image above (courtesy of www.wikiart.org) is of a painting made by David Cox in 1836 of the Afon Cynfal, with the title 'Rhaiadr Cwm'. You can still see much the same splendid view from the viewpoint on the B4391 (SH730413) east of Llan Ffestiniog.

There is a FP on the north side of the river gorge which forms part of the Snowdonia Slate Trail. I recall the majes-

tic surroundings in the gorge from a walk led by John Bowen years ago.

A proposal has been made to the National Park for a 600kW hydro scheme which, according to Cymdeithas Eryri, will lead to the river being dammed and up to 70% of the water diverted around the falls. Pre-consultation ended 24/11.

More information on the Society's website: www.snowdonia-society.org.uk



GLEAM is a body opposed to off-roading by 4x4 vehicles and trail bikes on our fragile green lanes, which were not built for use by motor vehicles and have in some cases already suffered major damage. We have previously co-operated with GLEAM, especially when Max Grant was active as our Area Sec.

There is a new publication "Calling Time on Off-Road Driving" which explains the problems. You can get a copy from the GLEAM website www.gleam-uk.org/

North Wales Ramblers AGM

Our AGM will be on **Saturday 13th Jan 2023, 2pm**, again at **Llanrhos Old School, Conwy Road, Llanrhos, LL30 1RW**, (near Llandudno). The old school is almost opposite St Hilary's church. Kevin Slattery will lead a **pre-AGM walk** starting from Llanrhos Old School at **11:00am**. Details in the hand-book and online

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

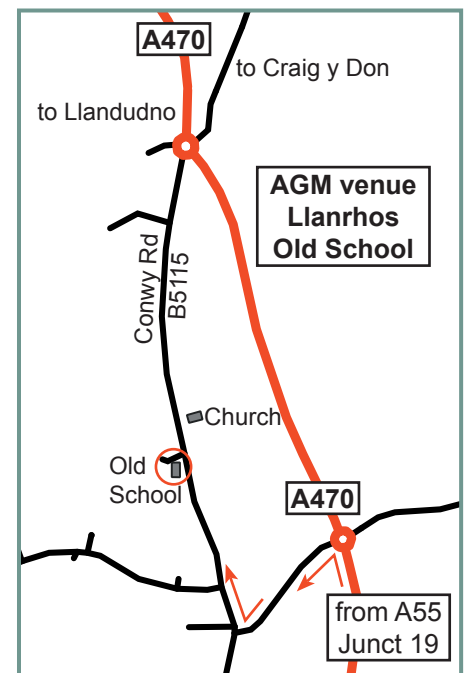
The AGM is your opportunity to have your say and includes the election of

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—someone from **Natural Resources Wales**, who will speak about the proposed **new National Park**, centred on the Clwydian Range AONB, but covering a significantly larger area.

Directions from the A55 Junction 19. Head north towards Llandudno on the main A470. At the **third roundabout** from J19, take the first exit (Croghryn Lane). After 300m you reach Conwy Rd – turn right and follow Conwy Rd for another 350m. The Old School is on the left. **Grid ref is SH 7928 8021**

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 / 2023

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