



Combined Walks Programme

WE are pleased to be putting out a Combined Walk Programme ('CWP') with this newsletter, after having to abandon one half-way through and then miss the next three. It is important that every member has the opportunity to know what is going on. Walks in the CWP are just part of what we want to share. We need to share who to contact about footpaths, groups and other issues and where to find walks that are arranged at shorter notice. Newsletters to every member can provide some of this information.

Ramblers walks are led by unpaid but experienced volunteers who take pleasure and pride in sharing their walks with other members. They give up their time to recce and risk assess the walk and forward the details to programme secretaries who publicise the walks.

During COVID many walk leaders found the process simpler as they did not need to come up with a number of walks at one time and give dates for them up to nine months in the future.

Some leaders and some groups have not put walks into the CWP but intend to

continue to use the systems they developed during the Covid restrictions.

Some walk leaders have chosen not to restart leading although some may still restart when Covid becomes less of an issue. All this has resulted in less than 55% of the previous number of walks in the CWP.

We are very grateful for everyone who leads walks however publicised and do not want anyone to be put off leading by constantly requesting walks in a format leaders are not comfortable with, so short notice walks are definitely here to stay. Walk leaders must feel free to choose the format that suits them.

The difficult issue is whether it is worth continuing to produce a CWP with only a fraction of the walks in it. We will have to consider the work and cost involved but we also want to hear your views.

Would it be better for those without internet access to get walks printed off the webpages every month or two? Please share any comments/ suggestions about this.

secretary@ramblersnorthwales.org.uk

Email addresses and permissions

WE currently have about 1320 north Wales Area members, but only 890 have given an email address to Ramblers.

If you use email but are one of the 430 members who have not yet given your email address to Ramblers, please could you give Ramblers your email address in one of these ways:

- login and visit your Ramblers profile;
- send an email to membership@ramblers.zendesk.com;
- phone the national membership department direct on 020 3961 3232.

When you give Ramblers an email address you can specify if you would like Ramblers not to send any promotional information, but, even if you reject the promotions, groups can still send emails about walks and meetings.

Use the details above to change / check your preferences. **You can always change your mind if you feel you are getting too much that is not useful.**

Our Groups use emails to advise members about walk programmes and meetings, and possible changes due to booking constraints, weather, or other variations. This has become more important since the pandemic and is likely to remain an important feature in the future.

When you join Ramblers your contact details are shared with your local Group and Area to enable local volunteers to let you know about group walks and other local activities related to your Ramblers membership. We send you our local walks programme / newsletter by post as part of your membership. Ramblers are committed to safeguarding your personal details and comply with General Data Protection Regulations.



See page 6 for locations selected for the **Paths to Wellbeing** project.

Thoughts from the Chair

OND fe ddaw dyddiau mwyn y gwanwyn ... a dyma rwyf yn teimlo ar ôl misoedd mor galed a gafwyd yn ystod hanner cyntaf y flwyddyn yma! O'r diwedd yr ydym yn cael cerdded mewn grwpiau a hefyd yn rhydd i fynd o gwmpas y wlad ar ein teithiau cerdded. Mae yna nifer o newidiadau wedi digwydd i wefan y Cerddwyr yn ogledd Cymru efo llawer mwy o'r cynnwys yn Gymraeg erbyn hyn.

I am pleased that we are getting back to some kind of normality following months of lockdown and we are producing a walk program for the first half of 2022. I did manage to complete Offa's Dyke Path in May this year and then led a walk along part of the path on the Clwydian range as part of the Big Welsh Walk to celebrate the 50th anniversary. I also managed to walk some of the coastal path around the Llŷn Peninsula that is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

It is not really surprising that the LA Times named Wales as one of the top ten "great destinations to consider" visiting in 2020! The article describes Wales as a "dramatic country, full of rolling hills and mountains, with neighbours England and Scotland close at hand". The impressive landscape, our coastal path, mountains and seaside resorts was worth noting and we have all this on our doorstep! More details on:

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/whats-on/travel/wales-la-times-travel-destination-17551603>

However the COVID virus has not gone away with many of us are still having our various meetings on zoom but we are hoping that the AGM for North Wales in January 2022 will return to face-to-face in Llandudno. Let's hope that we have a happy and prosperous New Year in 2022!

The best news we have had in recent

months was that Ramblers Cymru has secured £1.2m funding from the Rural Development Programme for **Paths to Wellbeing**. This will give communities across Wales the tools and training to undertake practical path and habitat maintenance. This is very important work as we all know how poorly maintained our paths can be and they are often blocked. Thirteen new staff members were appointed across Wales to work with local authorities, Woodland Trust and Wildlife Trusts Wales. There should be more volunteers to improve the footpaths and I have walked in some of the areas and this work is really needed. Seven projects have already started in North Wales and I trust that these developments will make a big difference to the paths in our area. More details on p6 and:

<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/pathstowellbeing>

J Elwyn Williams, Chair

Secretary's report

MOST issues I have been involved with or would have commented on are covered elsewhere in the newsletter such as the AGM (to be held on Saturday 8th Jan 2022); risk assessments for walks; the next CWP and future programmes and the Paths to Wellbeing project.

Below are sources of information and details on some points that Ramblers Great Britain are currently asking leaders to do.

Walk leaders

To register as a Ramblers walk leader (or record any volunteer role) members just send their name, role and group to

volunteersupport@ramblers.zendesk.com

If possible copy in the group chair or secretary and include the membership number.

Alternatively, for walk leaders, the group's walk programme coordinator can send a list of all the walk leaders in the group to record everyone in one go.

All our Ramblers walk leaders need to be registered for insurance purposes.

This email address is also the place to notify any changes from Group AGMs

Risk assessments

At present Ramblers insurance has a requirement for walk leaders to be

registered but also for walk leaders to fill in a risk assessment for each led walk and keep it for three years. There is a simple tick list template for risk assessments on the national website: <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/advice/coronavirus/group-walks.aspx> —or from the link on the Area website.

Some members including me are working to try to end the requirement for written risk assessments.

Assemble

This is the online hub for Ramblers volunteers. It has all the current volunteer resources (that used to be found in the 'Volunteer Zone' toolkits on the national website) as well as other information and news. It is very useful for at least one person from each group to be on it as it has a lot of useful information.

You can also check which role(s) you are registered for here:

<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/volunteer-zone.aspx>

If you have any further comments or questions about these please email me: **secretary@ramblersnorthwales.org.uk**

Issues such climate change and the massive reduction in numbers of some plant and animal species continue to be a serious concern to many of us. We

want to find ways to balance the needs of the environment with both the pleasure gained from being in the countryside and also the needs of people whose livelihood depends on the rural economy. We continue to look for ways to do this and to try to work with like minded organisations.

In the **Agriculture Wales** white paper consultation the Ramblers Cymru push for the inclusion of access into the legislation seems to have been well received and we are hopeful that **cross compliance** based on access provision will be included.

This years **Big Welsh Walks** took place over three weekends and celebrated the 50th anniversary of the **Offa's Dyke path**. Next year is the 10th anniversary of the Wales Coast Path so look out for events focused on this in 2022.

*Joanna Slattery
Area Secretary*

Risk Assessments

THE following motion was passed at North Wales Area Council and has gone to the Ramblers Board of Trustees

I have raised the problem at the Welsh Council Executive Committee and also intend to put this forward to our Area AGM as a General Council motion unless action is taken before then

Motion title: Removing the requirement for written risk assessments.

Motion: **This Area Council asks that the Board of Trustees remove the requirement for a written risk assessment of group walks.**

Background Notes:

The requirement for a written risk assessments has contributed to a reduction in the number of walk leaders. Five of North Wales Area's nine groups report definitely having lost walk leaders due to this requirement with one group reporting losing 10 walk leaders! We feel this motion requires urgent action.

The Area Councils and Groups cannot be expected to chase up risk assessments

Other groups such as Welsh Athletics and Cycling UK do not require written risk assessments for their group activities. BMC provides Combined Liability Insurance for clubs and individual members, full details of which are given on their website.

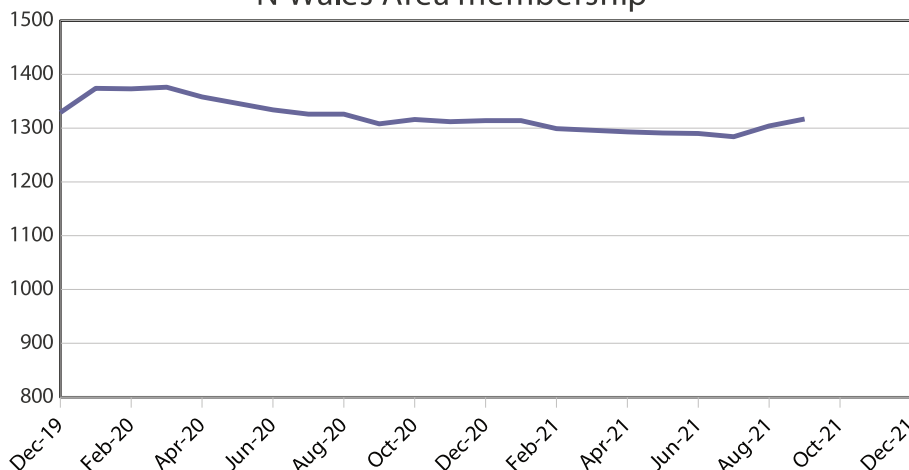
Assessing risk is an essential part of walk leading including during the walk and can be developed and encouraged through experience and training. A tick list covering all types of group walks does not provide an effective view of the risk in individual walks. Some leaders find written Risk Assessments a useful tool and a range of model Risk Assessments could be made available to suit different walks.

We recognise this change may require separate insurance policies for path work groups and for led walks. Also special events widely publicised for the general public e.g. Big Welsh Walk, may continue to need written risk assessments.

As **Tanya Curry** and **Rebecca Dawson****have said "Walking is an inherently safe activity, and we all want it to be as fun and easy as possible for walkers and our walk leaders. The Ramblers has some of the most experienced walk leaders

Membership report

N Wales Area membership



MEMBERSHIP has remained around 1310 in recent months and has not changed very much during the last three years. Covid does not seem to have had an important influence on these numbers. New members and leavers are both around 15 to 20 each month, the steady total hides an active recruitment.

Nearly 65% of members are aged over 60, in fact the proportion could be higher because 30% have not given a date of birth.

Of our members 32% have not given an email address in their Ramblers membership details. This can make communication about walks and meetings

difficult and members have been asked to update their information; see the article on the front page of the this newsletter.

Conwy Valley is our largest group, followed by Eryri, Clwydian and Vale of Clwyd. there are 23 members without a group who have joined as Area members.

Group membership secretaries can apply to join Insight, which gives the latest membership numbers, leavers and joiners, and much other information.

Dave Collins, with thanks to Neville Fernley who has been our Membership Secretary for many years but has now retired from the role.

LW01	Clwydian	160
LW02	Conwy Valley	241
LW03	Ynys Môn	147
LW04	Wrexham	108
LW06	Meirionnydd	116
LW07	Berwyn	60
LW08	Vale of Clwyd	156
LW09	Deeside	111
LW10	Eryri	193
LW96	North Wales Area membership	23
LW98	North Wales Non-Group members	2
	Grand total	1317

across Great Britain and we know that they take the reasonable steps necessary to ensure that walkers are welcomed and safe on each walk."

** Tanya Curry is the Ramblers' interim CEO and Rebecca Dawson is the current chair of the Board of Trustees.

Area Footpath Secretary's report

OVER the past two years Rights of Way work has been difficult for both the Ramblers and the County Councils. At the start of the Pandemic this work was greatly reduced. Our Footpath Workers could not get out to investigate issues and the councils suspended work on map orders. Some council officers were transferred to other departments. The situation began to improve later last year but was again interrupted by lockdowns. Despite all this our Footpath Committees have been active and have had some successes. I would like to record my appreciation for their work.

During the early days of the Pandemic there was an increase in people using their local footpaths. This was recognised by the Welsh Government who provided extra funds for improvements. Most of this extra money has been used to replace stiles with gates. While this is welcome it has had an effect on the Councils. To spend the money they had to divert resources from their normal work. This has meant that some complaints have taken longer to sort out.

Conwy

The Deganwy Level Crossing issue has not been sorted. Network Rail obstructed this path in 2012. They subsequently lost at a Public Inquiry (and later in court) which established that the path was indeed a public right of way. Instead of accepting the situation they have asked Conwy CBC to extinguish the path. The path is currently closed under a temporary Traffic Regulation Order. We are still waiting for NR to submit a full safety assessment of the crossing to Conwy CBC, in support of their extinguishment application. Conwy CBC will then decide whether to make an Order to close the footpath**. If they do the Ramblers and local residents are likely to object, and we will be heading for another public inquiry.

Claims for several footpaths in the Gwrych Castle Woods have been made by a local county councillor. The woods are leased to Natural Resources Wales for 3,999 years. Because they are only leaseholders, they cannot give full Open Access rights but they might be able to give permissive access.

Siriol Hir is between Llanfair TH and Abergele. This small area has a network of footpaths which provide useful links to the wider network. Over the years the

paths have been obstructed and difficult to use. In an attempt to resolve the situation Conwy rights of way recently held a site meeting with the occupier and ourselves. We are hopeful that a mutually agreeable solution will be achieved.

The Conwy Valley Group have also restarted their footpath work. There are eight members of the Group. They have during this year carried out 180 hours of work. This has included installing and repairing furniture and clearing 20 kilometres of overgrowth.

Denbighshire

Denbighshire was one of the first to restart Map Order work. The first was an Order for a path claim in Meliden. This has been objected to and will now be referred to the Planning Inspectorate. During the last year the Council has installed about 250 kissing and walkers' gates. We have a long-standing claim for the disused railway line near Llangollen. To this have been added two further claims. One in Llangollen and the other in Pwllglas near Ruthin. The Paths to Wellbeing project in the County will feature the Communities of Llanbedr DC and Efenectyd.

Flintshire

In January 2020 a Public Inquiry was held into a claim for a Bridleway at Lixwm. Normally the decisions from such inquiries take only a few weeks. This one took over six months. We were surprised when the Inspector had decided it was a footpath instead of a bridleway. Some horse riders objected to this and it was referred back to the Inspector, who decided to hold a further inquiry by written submissions. This closed in July this year. We are still awaiting the decision. The plans under the Paths to Wellbeing Project to improve 53 kms in Llanfynydd and surrounding area are welcome

Gwynedd – Arfon and Dwyfor

The most notable achievement during the year has been the decision by Gwynedd CC to create a footpath through the Penrhyn Castle Grounds. The Castle was given to the National Trust largely because the family could no longer afford its upkeep. The land around it was not and still belongs to the Estate. The path links the Coast Path between Capel Ogwen with Porth Penrhyn. This means that the Coast Path will not have the cur-

rent ridiculous diversion along the roads around Talybont and Llandygai. The Council have had one objection. They are in discussions with the objector and are hopeful of an agreement.

Gwynedd – Meirionnydd

In recent years orange / brown dots have been appearing on the 1:25,000 OS Maps. Do you know what they are? Thought not! They are traffic free cycle routes. As such they are open to walkers. A few have now appeared in the Trawsfynydd Area. This means you can now plan circular routes in this area that take you off the A470. These routes have probably always been there but known only to local residents.

Wrexham

Wrexham CBC rights of way dept have installed new walkways at the Sontley Marsh SSSI site between Marchwiel and Erddig. As elsewhere across the Area last summer it was a great growing season for bracken, nettles and brambles. As a result the Council has extended its strimming season.

Ynys Môn

Two landslips on the Coast Path have occurred. The first one at Benllech has been repaired with improved drainage and a handrail. The other one at Moelfre is more long term with a diversion being required. The Group noted the creation of a section of the Coast Path through Penrhyn Castle grounds and have requested that Ynys Môn County Council take similar action.

The Group are supporting two claims for footpaths put in by members of the public. Ynys Môn County Council are using the Active Travel Act to link communities on the Island. Schemes are being worked on for seven areas - Amlwch, Benllech, Holyhead, Llanfair PG, Menai Bridge and Llangefni.

The Silver Slashers have also been busy. After being able to restart they have held 22 sessions. This work has included clearing four badly blocked paths.

Ron Williams

**** Stop Press.** Network Rail's application for extinguishment is due to go before a Conwy CBC committee on Mon 13 December.

Area Treasurer's Report 2021

Ramblers Association - North Wales Area

Year ending 30th September 2021

Receipts and Payments at _____

Receipts	2020/21	2019/20	Payments	2020/21	2019/20
Balance at 1st Oct	14,033.22	10,012.34			
Central Office	3,000.00	13,400.00	Groups Grants	1,778.00	3,489.00
			Walks Programme	-	2,919.86
			Newsletters/Publicity	2,161.84	1,169.43
Publication Sales	51.00	158.40	Book Sale Expenses	-	-
Advertising Sales	0.00	210.00	Footpaths	75.40	487.93
Arthur Roberts memorial	490.00		Countryside Protection	42.00	-
			Access	-	-
			Meetings (inc AGM)	136.80	344.00
			Admin	1.50	26.90
			Flexi Groups		
			Wats Dyke Way	383.86	
Total Receipts	17,574.22	13,768.40	Total Payments	4,579.40	8,437.12
Surplus(+)/deficit(-)	12,994.82	5,331.28			

Bank reconcilliation

	2020/21	2019/20			
B/Fwd 1 Oct 20114798	14,033.22	10,012.34			
Surplus(+)/deficit(-)	12,994.82	5,331.28			
Watt's Dyke Way	-761.90	-1,145.76			
Available Bal at 30 Sept	12,232.92	4,185.52			
Bank balance at 30th Sept		10,012.34			
Signed:	Honorary Treasurer: Jeff Nagle				
Signed:	Independent Examiner: Martin Hughes				

Income *

OUR income for the year was £3,541 made up from Central office grants of £3,000, publication sales of £51 (Ron's book produced on behalf of the area and from the Wat's Dyke way publication, £9 and £42 respectively). Also included in this figure are the donations so far received for the Arthur Roberts memorial, £490.

Expenditure *

Our total expenditure for the year was £4,579 almost half of last years' expenditure. No walks programmes were produced but we had two area newsletters which cost £2,162. £1,780 was paid in group grants, £140 for meetings and admin and £120 on footpath work. £380 on Wat's Dyke way, way markers and domain name.

Summary

Another unusual year due to the Covid effect, and this has meant we have again underspent our budget by a sizeable

amount. This underspend will be rebalanced next year, to try and bring our reserves back to a acceptable level by requesting a smaller grant from HQ than we would normally need.

Financially the area remains in a healthy position. We ended the year with an available balance of £12,232.92, which excludes the £761.90 in the Watt's Dyke Way account.

Thank you once again to the group treasurers, who throughout the year pay the bills/expenses and keep the vital records to enable the groups and area to function. I am aware of at least two groups who are looking for volunteers to take over from existing treasurers so if you think this is something you would like to do to support your group speak to your treasurer and find out what is involved. It's not complicated, otherwise I wouldn't be doing it!

Jeff Nagle
Area Treasurer

* Figures rounded up

Paths to Wellbeing

THE Paths to Wellbeing project will be a key driver for our vision to put walking at the heart of communities, with 13 new staff members across Wales working with partners to create a national framework for volunteer driven activity.

18 communities across Wales will be given the tools and training needed to improve access and nature locally, all with the support of a Paths to Wellbeing regional project officer.

The three projects in the north west and three projects in the north east have now been selected for consultation.

Clywedog Valley & Caia Park



Applications were made by the Clywedog Valley Partnership and Caia Park. They have agreed to work together to form one project. The aim is to provide links to paths and routes into the Clywedog trail. A 5.5-mile route from Minera to Kingsmill along the river Clywedog. The aim would be to provide better access into the trail for the surrounding villages and the Caia Park area of Wrexham.

Pwll Glas & Graig Fechan

The application was made by Chris Wynne on behalf of the North Wales Wildlife Trust, with the aim to strengthen the paths linking their two reserves of Graig Wyllt and Coed Cilygroeslwyd. Denbighshire County Council have put in community miles routes in both villages so the project will aim to strengthen links between them across the vale of Clwyd.

Llanfynydd

The application was made by the Community Council who are finalising the asset transfer of a field in the centre of the village from Flintshire County Council. The field contains a well-defined section of the Offas Dyke Path. The aim is to provide a route off the road, through the village, as well as a community orchard and green community space. The Wildlife Trusts Cymru are working with them on this project and the Paths to Wellbeing project fits well alongside. Their project not only improves wellbeing by giving the community greater access to green spaces, but also responds to the needs of local ecosystems helping create a space where nature can thrive.

Penrhyndeudraeth

Penrhyndeudraeth is a small community located near the mouth of Afon Dwyryd, and adjacent to Eryri. The application for Penrhyndeudraeth to be involved with the project was submitted by North Wales Wildlife Trusts, who are hoping to create links between the town and its little-known wildlife reserves.

Penmaenmawr

Situated between the beautiful North Wales coastline and the mountains of Eryri, Penmaenmawr is a town with the potential to become a major hub for trails leading throughout Northwest Wales. The community council approached us to express their interest in the project as there are currently many disused trails at risk of becoming lost. Most of these paths have existing PROW but are overgrown and disused as few people are aware of their location. The surrounding uplands are of great interest to archaeologists, local historians, and walkers alike. They have an extremely high concentration of fascinating archaeological sites, including examples from the Neolithic period, Bronze age, and Roman invasion.

Holy Island



A project put forward by the North Wales Wildlife Trusts to waymark routes that can be enjoyed by locals and tourists alike and can be accessed without the need for your own transportation.

This project has received funding through the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government.

If you would like to get involved and support the volunteer efforts contact: pathstowellbeing@ramblers.org.uk — and remember to let us know which community you are looking to get involved with.

For more information visit:

www.ramblers.org.uk/pathstowellbeing

*Heather Martin and
Max Henderson*

John Robinson 1923-2021

JOHN Robinson succeeded Arthur Roberts as Footpath Secretary for North Wales some time in the 1980s, after he moved to the Ceiriog Valley. North Wales was then still part of Merseyside and North Wales Ramblers and area committee meetings took place in Liverpool. Although the resources of this large membership were useful, there was pressure for the Welsh portion to become separate, and John was a prominent supporter. North Wales Area was duly born in October 1988 at a meeting where Ioan Bowen Rees (mountaineer and former Chief Exec of Gwynedd) was guest speaker.

John's special passion was footpaths and he set about forming a footpath committee for each county, so as to have a single point of contact with the local authority for knotty issues. At first there was only Clwyd and Gwynedd, but after 1996 we needed six. For the Clwyd committee (he was secretary at first) John kept track of the numerous path problems reported to the county using spreadsheets, a great novelty at the time.

One of the main tasks North Wales Area had to solve after formation was the distribution of walks programmes. These had been duplicated on foolscap sheets and sent out with an Area mailing. However, as more new Groups were being formed this had become cumbersome. We eventually settled on printing a combined walks programme, listing walks for all groups in date order, an idea 'stolen' from Oxfordshire Area, albeit



with differences. John drew on his publishing experience and typeset the first edition or two himself using specialised software. This was a lot more complicated and difficult than it is with today's desktop publishing software. Does anyone remember 'bromides'? The small booklet format proved a great success and is still with us, although it is now under threat, post-Covid.

By 1990 John had taken over the job

of Area Secretary and he did this job with great efficiency until 2000 when he stepped down, but kept going with his footpath interests. John's *bête noir* for some years had been a local path, Glyn-traian 39, where the owners insisted that there was no public right of way. Walkers attempting to use it often suffered harassment. John himself was bitten by one of the farm dogs. The owners applied to have it removed from the Definitive Map but at the eventual public inquiry this attempt failed. The path continued to be a problem until it was diverted further away from the farmhouse, and even after that.

John's interests in the Ramblers had taken him onto the Welsh Executive Committee, and he was for a time chairman of the Ramblers Welsh Council, which also made him a member of the Ramblers national Executive Committee (which later became the Board of Trustees). He worked hard in these roles and achieved much.

John gave a great deal of energy to his various roles within Ramblers at a time of life when most people want to take things easy. After he relinquished his roles he spent some years caring for his wife Mary (also a prominent campaigner for Ramblers), who suffered a lengthy illness before her death in 2017. John was age 98 when he died on 3 July 2021.

PB

Photo: John on the Berwyn ridge in the winter of 1986 / 1987

Bryn Rhyd yr Arian Bridge

IN June 2019 the foundations of this bridge (grid ref SH 955 675) were noted to have suffered severe damage. The bridge was closed to both vehicles and pedestrians; it had become unsafe and was liable to further collapse

The bridge formed a vital river crossing for the **North Wales Pilgrims Way**. For most of the year the River Aled here is too deep and too wide to be fordable, even in wellies. The Ramblers put up diversion notices so that people didn't futilely walk an extra mile to only find the route impassable.

Contractors demolished the old bridge and put in the necessary supporting stone piers for the roadway whilst river levels were low, but in early 2021

storms (remember Ciara, Dennis, Jorge?) came along and caused many other structural failures, land slips and flooding within the area. The contractors were understandably called away to deal with more urgent problems.

We are glad to report the new bridge has now finally been completed and it was opened to traffic vehicular, equestrian and pedestrian in August 2021.

It may have taken more than two years but we are delighted that the North Wales Pilgrims Way can once again be walked using the pretty bridleway adjacent to the River Aled rather than utilising the road.

John Buckley

New bus T10

There is a first class bus service, the T10, which runs every 2 hours from Bangor to Corwen, from 8.23 am to 6.23 pm all along the A5, stopping at all the important places. (The T10 replaces the S6, which was hopeless.)

<https://www.trawscymru.info/t10/>

I've used the T10 numerous times and it is great to see so many walkers and climbers using it. It's also a result of much campaigning, and was discussed at the plenary sessions on integrated transport for Snowdonia

It's a 12 month trial until next May, continuing throughout the winter.

Please use this service if at all possible.

Stan Winstanley

Dogs on walks



I would like to make an appeal to members with dogs. Ramblers Cymru would like more dog walkers to be members of the Ramblers. We are the walking organisation that safeguards rights of way and campaigns for greater access which benefits all walkers including those with four-legged friends.

Kevin or I walk my Mum's dog every morning but like most walk leaders in North Wales we don't feel that we want the added complication of dogs on the usual group walks that we lead. North Wales is predominantly a livestock farming area so most walks take us through sheep or cattle or both. Both farm animals and dogs can behave differently in new situations. Remember all our leaders are unpaid volunteers. The exception is registered assistance dogs and we ask those with such assistance dogs to phone the leader to discuss stiles or other obstacles on the route

Walk leaders are welcome to put on dog friendly walks and just need to put 'Suitable for dogs' on their walk description. We would also welcome suggestions of walks without stiles or where it is unusual to come across farm animals (so long as people realise these can change).

We led a dogs welcome walk as part of the coast path festival in 2019 from the West Shore in Llandudno to the Royal Artillery gunnery school site and pill box on the west side of the Orme. The 4 mile walk has no stiles and the Orme goats and the sheep rarely seem to go down there. There are fantastic views, plenty of 20th century ruins and some history information boards. Pushchairs could also do most of it apart from the furthest bit to the higher pillbox.

Joanna Slattery

Welsh geographical data

If you are one of those odd people (like me) interested in exploring the extent and location of things like urban commons, ancient woodland, open country, SSSIs (over 400 datasets), against a detailed OS background, have a look here. *PB*
<https://datamap.gov.wales>

Area AGM

The Area AGM will be on **Saturday 8th January 2022 at 2pm**. An agenda, minutes of the last AGM and a list of officers will be available on the Area website shortly.

Venue

Llandudno Junction Labour Club, Conwy Road, Llandudno Junction, quite close to the railway station but on the north side of Conwy Rd. The car park and club are not really visible from the main road. (This new venue is due to the noise/ sound issues experienced at Craig y Don.)

If you are driving from a distance aim for **Junction 18 on the A55**, then refer to the sketch map below. For SatNav users, postcode LL31 9NH should get you close. A useful landmark on Conwy Rd is Dragon Tiles: the unnamed access road to the club is about 30 metres east of the shop entrance – grid ref SH 7964 7790. **Don't** turn into Brickfield Terrace (=Tan y Marl) at Dragon Tiles as this doesn't allow access to the club car park.

Covid precautions

The AGM was discussed at our November Area meeting and it was felt that if anti-covid measures could be taken that we should have a face to face AGM. This allows people who do not use Zoom or do not use the internet to attend. We also hope it will provide a welcome change from last year!

You will need to book a place at the AGM to control the numbers attending. Use text or email if possible.

secretary@ramblersnorthwales.org.uk / 07748550798

Please wear a mask if possible until seated. If you have not had two covid vaccines please take a covid test in the days leading to the meeting.

Other covid measures will be taken e.g. windows will be open, we will provide sanitiser and there will be no refreshments (please bring anything you need).

Should we need to revert to a virtual Zoom meeting at short notice I will contact people using the booking list and post details on our webpages via the walk list.

Walk: There will also be a walk in the morning. Please visit the website for details or contact the walk leader for details - Kevin Slattery 01492 874563 or kevinslattery1@yahoo.co.uk

Joanna Slattery, Area Secretary

