

CYMDEITHAS ERYRI the SNOWDONIA SOCIETY AGM
Held on Saturday 16th November 2024 Yr Ysgwrn, Trawsfynydd

A message of thanks to members from Roger Thomas (President) was read out.

1. Apologies

Kevin Hall, Ellie Salisbury, Jacob Buis, Andy Tickle, Katherine Ellis, Helen Thomas, Bob Lowe, John Osley, Susan Osley, Nan Jones, Gwenda Jones, Maggie, Alwyn Oliver, Sián Turner, John Turner

2. Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in 2023 were approved as a true record. Proposed by Rob Collister and seconded by Julian Pitt.

Matters Arising:

A member raised a concern regarding the Society's stance on the proposed new National Park. It was noted that while the Society should not oppose the creation of a new National Park, any support should be given with careful qualification. Concerns were expressed about the Welsh Government's ability to finance four National Parks, considering the current financial strain supporting the existing three.

3. Director's Report – Rory Francis

Acknowledgements:

- Appreciation extended to the dedicated team, conscientious trustees, over 600 volunteers, and supportive members.
- Noted the departure of staff members Dan and Cai to the National Trust, and Molly at the end of her contract. Thanks to all retiring trustees.

Activities and Membership:

- Increased activities this year due to funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund.
- Membership has been gradually declining; efforts needed to grow.

Nature Crisis in Wales:

- One in six species at risk of extinction within ten years.
- National parks identified as priority habitats in the Health Check report.
- Strategic plan produced to address the nature crisis.

Farming and Conservation:

- 80% of Eryri is farmland; wildlife future tied to farming practices.
- Support for Welsh Government's environmentally friendly farming initiatives.
- Proposal for a Farming Wildlife and Landscape Award to recognise positive contributions.

Cwm Cynfal SSSI:

- Opposition to plans for dam and water extraction.
- Collaboration with Save Our Rivers, North Wales Wildlife Trust, and Buglife.
- Over 1,000 objections raised through a web campaign.

Grid Connections:

- Concerns about National Grid plans for a connection from Bangor to Swansea affecting Eryri.
- Ongoing discussions with the National Grid.

Tý Hyll:

- Recognised as a valuable heritage asset, but financial strain due to café lease.
- Lease surrendered by Tim Maddox, with plans to rent to Jane Davies on new terms.

In Memoriam:

- Sad news of Max Grant's passing, acknowledging his significant contributions to Tŷ Hyll along with his wife Margaret.

Member Engagement:

- Encouragement for members to participate in volunteering events, lead walks or activities, and invite friends to join.
- Open to ideas for increased member engagement.

4. Chair's report – Sue Beaumont**Presentation Acknowledgment:**

- Thanks to Rory for an outstanding presentation, highlighting the team's passion and dedication in addressing park issues under his leadership.

Advocacy Group:

- Tribute to the advocacy group led by Julian Pitt, recognised for their substantial work in ensuring the Society remains an independent and respected voice through advocacy and protest.

Trustee Changes:

- Farewell to David Walker and Chris Ball who are stepping down.
- Plans to ratify new trustees later in the meeting.
- Special acknowledgment to Rob Collister, who is stepping down and Netti for their remarkable contributions over the decades.

Ongoing Role of the Society:

- Emphasised how our revised strategy from 2024/25 will focus on nature regeneration.

National Parks Anniversary:

- Noted the 75th anniversary of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949, foundational for national parks in England and Wales.

Health Check Report:

- Mention of the Health Check report by the Campaign for National Parks, as highlighted by the Chair.

5. Conservation Project Report – Chelsea Boden

Chelsea Boden gave a summary of the achievements of our practical volunteer team. Thanks given to members and volunteers as this work could not be done without them.

Total figures: 175 workdays, 5,810 volunteer hours, 344 different volunteer participants broken down into projects:

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| ➤ Caru Eryri | ➤ 725 Volunteer hours |
| ➤ 65 Days spent caring for Eryri | ➤ 4,476 trees planted |
| ➤ 600 Bags totalling over 1,500kg | |
| ➤ 30km Length of footpath | |
| | ➤ MAD Weekend |
| ➤ Helping hands | ➤ 52 volunteers and 404 hours |
| ➤ 34 days | |
| ➤ 103 Volunteer numbers | |

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|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ➤ Carneddau landscape: | ➤ Lines in the landscape |
| ➤ 89 volunteers plus groups. | ➤ 19 events |
| ➤ 393 hours | ➤ 33 volunteers |
| ➤ 18 accredited training certificates | ➤ 256 volunteer hours |

6. Annual Report and Financial Statement – Hazwani Ibrahim

- Trustees' annual report and accounts have been available on our website.
- There is a vast improvement compared to last year mainly because of the SPF grant.
- Less expenditure compared to last year.
- Comparison between last year and this year shown.

7. Adoption of Reports and Accounts

- ***Motion to adopt the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 30th April 2023***

The motion to adopt the 2023/24 Annual Report and summary of the accounts for the year ending 30th April 2024 was proposed by Jane Davies and seconded by Elaine Cosgrove and carried *nem con*.

- ***Motion to reappoint Williams Denton as independent examiners of the Society's Accounts for 2024/25***

A motion to appoint Williams Denton as independent examiners of the Society's accounts for 2024/25 was proposed by Rob Collister, seconded by David Firth, and carried *nem con*.

8. Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee:

The election of the following was proposed by Netti Collister, seconded by Sue Beaumont, and carried *nem con*:

- President: Roger Thomas.

The election of all of the following was proposed and agreed by all members at the AGM.

- Sue Beaumont - Chair
- Jane Barbrook as Vice-chair
- Standing for election for the first time: Richard Heavers, Mark Dakeyne, Rob Nicholson
- Trustees retiring at the AGM: David Walker, Chris Ball and Rob Collister.

9. Amendments to the constitution

The current constitution, adopted in 2013, requires any changes to be approved at the AGM. A copy was circulated with the agenda.

Proposed Changes:

1. Length of Trustee Tenure:

Clarification of Clauses 13 and 17 to specify that trustees can serve up to three terms of three years each.

2. Length of Officer Tenure:

Introduced a time limit for officers, aligning it with trustees. Officers can now serve up to nine years.

Changes proposed by David Archer and seconded by Jane Barbrook and carried *nem con*.

10. Questions to the Director and Officers

Sale of Plas Tan y Bwlch:

- Concerns raised about the loss of facilities and the potential loss of public access to the land, currently accessible by courtesy rather than law.
- Response:
 - The Society shares these concerns and wrote privately to the Park Authority expressing them upon learning of the sale.
 - Press releases have also been issued, clearly stating the Society's position.
 - Decision on the sale has been postponed for six months.
- **Decline in Membership Numbers:**
- Acknowledged that the previous Engagement Officer was instrumental in attracting new members. Currently, there is no one in a similar role.
- Membership fees are reasonable, and efforts are needed to connect with individuals who share the Society's values.
- **Co-option of Trustees:**
- Member comment: The Society should exercise caution with co-option to prevent misuse and consider a maximum number of co-opted trustees.
- Response:
 - Co-opted trustees serve only temporarily, up to three months before standing for election at the AGM. This ensures members can vote on their suitability.
 - A formal recruitment process is now in place, including interviews for candidates.
- **Clause 27 – Changes to Internal Policies:**
- Comment: Significant policy changes should be brought to an AGM or EGM rather than decided solely by trustees.

Date of the next AGM

Provisional date - TBC