CYMDEITHAS ERYRI the SNOWDONIA SOCIETY AGM
Held on Wednesday 12th November 2025, Plas y Brenin, Capel Curig

1. **Apologies**
   Elizabeth Nottage, Chris Ball, Ian Hampton, Chloe Bailey, John Roberts, Peter Moore, Katherine Moore

2. **Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in 2024 were approved as a true record. Proposed by Netti Collister and seconded by Julian Pitt.

3. **Chair's report – Sue Beaumont**

Thanks, given to David Firth for chairing the meeting last minute.

Context of our work:

- Emphasis was placed on the challenges we face in light of nature crisis and the impact of climate change in Eryri and the importance of our work in this context.
- We are pleased that Cymdeithas Eryri has been involved in recent consultations with ENPA on combating climate change and look forward to how these translate into policies in the next Cynllun Eryri National Park management plan.
- Highlighted that we have contributed to the consultations around the Ffermio Bro scheme to support farmers to develop nature friendly farming practices.
- Emphasis on how partnership working is integral to our ability to make a difference through our volunteers, supporters and members.

Trustee changes:

- Farewell and tribute paid to Julian Pitt who is stepping down as a trustee. We are delighted that he will continue to be a member of the Advocacy group. Thank you, Julian.

Acknowledgements and thank you:

- Sue gave thanks to Rob Collister as editor of the magazine, as well as to Debbie Pritchard who produces each magazine. Thanks were also given to Rory Francis, Mary-Kate Jones and Debbie Pritchard for keeping Cymdeithas Eryri going through difficult times. Sue also thanked all her fellow trustees for all the work they have done throughout the year.

4. **Director's Report – Rory Francis**

Acknowledgments:

- Due to the Shared Prosperity Fund and other grants, we had an extremely successful year last year.

Thanks were given in particular to:

- Jane Barbrook, for her work as a volunteer leader with the hard work of all volunteers acknowledged and recognised.
- Etta Trumper (ENPA) for working hard to keep the Caru Eryri scheme going through the summer.
- Mary-Kate Jones and Debbie Pritchard for pulling together and keeping the Society running through difficult times.

- Sue Beaumont (chair) for keeping control of the financial situation through changes of Finance Officer, with the contribution of all trustees noted and thanks given.
- Mark Dakeyne for his work in identifying potential park and ride sites as well as the huge amount of work he puts into the advocacy committee - drafting well-crafted letters to the Park Authority on planning issues.
- retiring Trustee Julian Pitt who approached Jeremy Yates to ask him to paint the paintings currently up for auction.

Staffing update:

- It has been a difficult year for the Society, with many staff members moving on
- Rory is delighted to welcome Isobel Marshall-Andrews who is due to start with the Society on Monday 17th November as Conservation Manager

Legacy:

- Rory reported that we received a hugely generous legacy of £387,000 this year from the estate of Miss Helen Larman of Nant Gwynant, who was a member of the Society for many years. As her friend Susan Steel said: *"Miss Larman spent her life in love with Eryri as a child, following her period of evacuation during the war. Her passion for the region was infectious; nothing made her happier than to share it with her friends and family which she did across many generations. Annie's heart belonged here; she felt strongly that the mountains, rivers and lakes were for everyone to enjoy."*
- Rory reported that we will be making the best of use of this legacy by matching it against grant funding and investing in recruiting new members.

Transport:

- The bus service between Bangor and Betws-y-coed has been greatly improved – with a now hourly service running in the day throughout the summer.
- We identified Parc Bryn Cegin, just outside of Bangor, as a potential site for a park and ride and we understand that it will be used for this purpose at weekends next summer.

Plans by NESO, the National Energy Systems Operator and the National Grid

- The plans show a power line potentially cutting right through southern Eryri, Meirionnydd.
- Cymdeithas Eryri set up an e-action, encouraging our supporters to write their MSs and ask them to sign up to a Statement of Opinion in the Senedd, which we helped orchestrate, asking that this link should be located offshore, just like many of the other new proposed links, subject to assessment on the impacts on marine life.
- We have been assured that if this line did pass through Eryri, it would be buried underground, and that in reality, this would be so expensive that almost certainly, the National Grid would simply avoid the Parc and go round the side.

Rhaeadr y Cwm

- Plans for a small hydroelectric power scheme at Rhaeadr y Cwm were discussed at our AGM last year.
- This scheme would divert at times nearly 70% of the water out of this scenic waterfall, once of the most striking in Eryri and one protected as a vitally important wildlife site, an SSSI.
- The outcome of this application has still not been determined.

- We have a brilliant consortium of Cymdeithas Eryri, the North Wales Wildlife Trust, Save our Rivers, the North Wales Rivers Trust, Plantlife and Buglife all working together to protect this waterfall. Together, we persuaded over 1000 people to individually object to the planning applications.

Paintings for auction:

- Rory highlighted that we have two beautiful paintings for auction of Rhaeadr y Cwm by Jeremy Yates, who is Vice-chair of the Royal Cambrian Academy of Art
- Ffermio Bro scheme:
- Last year, members were encouraged to take part in the consultation for the new Sustainable Farming Scheme – to support nature friendly farming.
- Ffermio Bro was the outcome of this consultation and Rory has been asked to sit on the schemes panel for Eryri.
- It has been great to see hundreds of thousands of pounds spent supporting innovative environmental improvements.

5. Conservation Project Report – Mary-Kate Jones

Mary-Kate gave a summary of the achievements of our practical volunteer team. Thanks given to staff members, partners, funders and volunteers as this work could not be done without them. Mary-Kate gave a welcome to Isobel and a special mention to both Dan Goodwin and Chelsea Boden who are standing as trustees and will bring invaluable knowledge about our ways of working to the trustee team.

Total figures: over 5000 volunteer hours worked:

Caru Eryri

- Over 1,200kg of litter collected
- 35km length of footpath

Carneddau landscape partnership: Himalayan balsam project

- Over 330 volunteer hours
- More work with schools
- 17 people completed accredited training in invasive species control

Carneddau landscape partnership: Vegetation clearance project

- Over 340 volunteer hours
- More work with schools
- Volunteers enjoyed the added value of learning about archaeology as well as undertaking practical conservation work

Make a Difference (MAD) Weekend

- Over 400 volunteer hours
- 3kg of hard-to-reach litter cleared from shores of Llyn Padarn
- Over 2.5km of Yr Wyddfa's Watkin footpath maintained
- Rhododendron removed from 15 acres of woodland
- 23kg of litter (including 27 hats) cleared from Cwm Hetiau

6. Annual Report and Financial Statement – Sue Beaumont

- Trustees' annual report and accounts have been available on our website.
- Special thanks given to Stephen Faun who stepped down as Finance Officer at the end of October.
- A mention and thanks were given for the generous legacy mentioned by Rory earlier.
- Over the last 2-3 years, fundraising income has been relatively stable – income derived from donations and the Big Give, membership subscriptions and trading income as well as interest from investments.
- Other major source of income is grant funding for charitable activities.
- Shared Prosperity Fund contributed significantly last year, along with other funding such as grants from WCVA, income from contracts as part of our work with the Carneddau Landscape Partnership and a grant from Garfield Weston.
- Overall performance was very good, and the legacy has ensured financial stability for some time to come.

7. Adoption of Reports and Accounts

- ***Motion to adopt the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2025***
  The motion to adopt the 2024/25 Annual Report and summary of the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2025 was proposed by Rob Collister and seconded by David Metcalf and carried *nem con*.

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

- The election of Roger Thomas as President was proposed by Margaret Thomas, seconded by Netti Collister and carried *nem con*
- The election of Sir Simon Jenkins as Vice-president was proposed by Julian Pitt, seconded by Netti Collister and carried *nem con*
- The election of David Firth as Vice-president was proposed by Rob Nicholson, seconded by Mark Dakeyne and carried *nem con*
- The election of his Hon Huw Morgan Daniel as Vice-president was proposed by Mathew Teasdale, seconded by Jane Barbrook and carried *nem con*
- The election of Mathew Teasdale as Trustee was proposed by Margaret Thomas, seconded by Richard Heavers and carried *nem con*
- The election of Daniel Goodwin as Trustee was proposed by Bill Evans, seconded by Katie Haines and carried *nem con*
- The election of Chelsea Boden as Trustee was proposed by Bill Evans, seconded by Netti Collister and carried *nem con*

Trustees retiring at this AGM: Julian Pitt

9. Questions to the Director and Officers

- **Potential sale of Tŷ Hyll:**
  - A concern was raised about the potential sale of Tŷ Hyll and a request for an in-crease in maintenance of the garden and woodland.

Response:

- Tŷ Hyll has been costing us more money than it is bringing in.
- No decision has been made about the sale of Tŷ Hyll
- However, we must acknowledge that there are significant costs associated with it – not least the ongoing and serious problems with the sewage system.
- The solution is not simple and is costly.
- We must ensure that we are spending funds to meet our action plan aims.

- **Decline in number of partners**
  - A concern was raised that we are not working with enough partner organisations.

    Response:

    - Emphasised a constraint we have related to grant funding eg SPF funding had to be spent in Gwynedd and Conwy
    - Some upcoming projects we have are in partnership with other organisations eg RSPB and Woodland Trust

- **Loss of 7 staff members**

  - A concern was raised about the 70% staff turnover and a question asked about how it can be prevented from happening again in the future.

    Response:

    - Acknowledged that we are aware of it and working to ensure we are a good employer offering staff benefits, family friendly policies etc.
    - We are living in a cost-of-living crisis with a competitive market – we do need to pay good salaries which we endeavour to do.
    - Exit interviews were conducted to find out reasons behind staff leaving.

- **Provision of events for membership**
  - Have we given up on providing walks and talks for the membership as there have been no events in the past year?

    Response:

    - New role being planned which may include organising events.
    - We are aware that if we want to recruit members, we need to offer member benefits.

10. Date of the next AGM

TBC