

Minutes of Meirionnydd Ramblers AGM

Saturday 25th October 2025

Welcome and Apologies

Jackie welcomed the Committee plus 14 members to the AGM (Total 20 in attendance).

Apologies were read out and accepted from:

Martin Hughes(standing down), Jeff Nagle, Roy Gamblin, Romy Shovelton, Huw Jones, Alan Norton, Gill Ray, Nicola Ruck, Wyn Holt, Rita Thornberry.

Minutes of the 2024 AGM

Minutes of the 2024 AGM had been circulated and read, and were accepted as a true record. Proposed Jan Elliman, seconded Derek Morgan, carried by a show of hands.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Any Other Business

No formal notification of any AOB had been received prior to the meeting.

Chairman's Report

A copy of the Chairman's report is attached to these minutes.

Treasurers Report

A copy of the Treasurer's report is attached to these minutes.

Footpath Secretary's report

A copy of the Footpath Secretary's report is attached to these minutes.

Programme Secretary's report

A copy of the Programme Secretary's report is attached to these minutes.

Election of Officers and Committee

Mike Gilbert standing down after nine years as Publicity Secretary. Martin Hughes standing down from the Committee after sixteen years.

Liz Barnes standing for election as Publicity Secretary. Nominated Mike Gilbert, seconded Angelina Mullinger, carried unanimously by a show of hands.

The Chair asked for Volunteers to join the Committee or to attend a meeting to see for themselves what we do. Speak to a Committee member for an informal talk and more information. We are particularly looking for a Working Party Co-ordinator. As there were no volunteers the Chairman nominated the other existing committee members be re-elected. The Committee and Officers agreed to continue in their present roles. Proposed Lyndsay Burton, seconded Eirian Lewis, carried unanimously by a show of hands.

Election of Auditor

David Charles was elected as Auditor. Proposed by Carol Ball and carried unanimously by a show of hands.

The meeting closed at 10.35 am.

Chairman's report to AGM, October 25th 2025

Round-up of the last year. Other topics will be covered in reports from the treasurer, footpath secretary and programme secretary.

Thanks to committee members

- A small group of members who get together behind the scenes to keep the Meirionnydd Ramblers going and alive.
- **Our aim is to provide a good walks programme, support leaders and other members, make a positive contribution to local footpath and access issues and provide opportunities for members to meet up and socialise.**
- I'm sure you'd like to join me in thanking this small group of enthusiastic members.

Membership.

- Increased from 109 to 116, with a further 7 Ramblers members affiliated to the group.
- some walk regularly with the group, others are members because they support the broader Ramblers aims.

Walking at the core of the group's activities

- Good number of walks, well supported
- Prog sec report later

Social events. We held two enjoyable social events during the year.

- Annual lunch was held in the spring at Y Gader, Coleg Meirion Dwyfor, Dolgellau.
- Visit to the Dana, the historic prison in Shrewsbury in July
- Many thanks to Andrea and Rita for organising these events.

Publicity.

- We continue to make information about us and our walks available to members and non-members
- Mike has continued to submit a weekly column about our forthcoming walks to the Cambrian News.
- Website and Facebook pages are regularly updated

Other topics will be covered in reports from the treasurer, footpath secretary and programme secretary.

Finally, special thanks to Gill for providing today's refreshments.

Jacky Cross, October 2025

Programme Secretary's report to AGM, October 25th 2025

Walking.

- 58 walks led for the year since the last AGM. cf 64 last year BUT
- 7 further walks cancelled due to bad weather, leader ill-health, blocked paths (mostly due to storm damage). Exceptional number!
- The average length of walk was roughly 7 miles, and the average number of walkers between 11 and 12, same as last year.

Walk leaders.

- Now only 12 active walk leaders. Was 15 this time last year.
- Leaders lost mostly due to injury or ill-health. One or two retiring after many years of leading.
- Leaders averaging four walks a year, some doing a lot more
- Recruiting more leaders is now of critical importance, if we want to carry on offering a full and varied walks programme.

Walk Planning

- Used to plan programmes for a full 6 months
- Have run since July on a shorter planning horizon.
- Opportunity after formal AGM to discuss pros and cons of new approach.

Walk leader training

- As a national charity with walks open to the public, Ramblers needs to show that walks are led to an acceptable standard
- Walk leaders asked to undertake some basic training or demonstrate a certain level of experience.
- Training is mostly common sense. Handbook and a couple of online interactive videos.
- Most leaders have already done this.
- Walk leader workshop being held on Nov 3rd

Other Training

- The group has not needed to hold any other training sessions in the last 12 months.
- First aid training will be arranged in 2026.

Jacky Cross, October 2025

FOOTPATH SECRETARY REPORT TO MEIRIONNYDD GROUP AGM – OCTOBER 2025

Another year has flown by – I think this is the 11th time I have stood before the AGM so apologies to those of you who are regular attendees who will have heard most of this before.

In short, the role has involved me in 4 key activities vis a vis

- liaising with Gwynedd ROW officers over footpath problems either in person (we meet 3-4 times a year) ;
- arranging a working party day;
- dealing with miscellaneous queries from members of the public over footpath issues which come in via the website; and
- passing relevant information to Jacky to update the ROW page of the website

Regarding the working party day, I would like to place on record my thanks to those members who came along to help and also those who indicated a willingness to get involved but for whom the date was not convenient. The work was undertaken on a path in Coed y Brenin and despite the really hot weather there were 7 of us who worked alongside the 2 Council ROW officers and their contractors clearing a substantial length of path that had become an impassable path due to the usual vegetation but many sapling trees. In parts it was boggy due to blocked ditches and at one end required an earth ramp to be constructed to make accessing the path much easier from a forestry track. Way marker posts and discs were also installed. On this occasion the work was funded by a small grant that I had applied for from Ramblers Cymru. Jacky in particular is keen for there to be more work days and we could do this especially if we identified paths that we wanted cleared and which could be done without the use of power tools and were relatively easy to access since more complicated jobs need Council and contractor intervention and this is more difficult to arrange. I am happy to work alongside or indeed hand over the reins altogether, if someone can help out with this aspect of the role. I know that Jacky will be talking about Committee representation and member involvement later on in the meeting so I am not going to say any more on that subject now.

An update on a few issues which people have been asking about:

- a) Trawsfynydd Foot Bridge. In a nutshell there is no news on this. ENPA, amongst others (including us) have been trying to get some definitive information out of Magnox (the owners of the bridge) but have had no success in this. Neither they nor Gwynedd Council have been invited to any discussions with Magnox direct.
 - b) Plas Tan y Bwlch. As many of you know this was put up for sale by the Park and initially included the grounds as well as the building. Following local opposition (including from us) the sale proposals were withdrawn. The most current proposals are that the Park are applying for a substantial grant (Nat Lottery?) to be able to retain the building and re-purpose it (possibly as their HQ and for other community uses) but irrespective of the future of the building there is an undertaking that lake and woodlands would be retained and kept for public access. This in itself is not straightforward since the paths are not ROW and ownership is fragmented so to future proof public access either public ROW would need to be created or the whole area dedicated as access land. Both of which need legal orders and processes to be gone through.
 - c) Coed y Brenin. I don't know NRW's current thinking regarding its future- does anyone?
- ANY QUESTIONS ?

Gill Caves Footpath Secretary

Ramblers' Association Meirionnydd Group

Annual General Meeting

25th October 2025

Treasurer's Report 2024-2025

Income was received from Central Office to the sum of 810.00, Royalties from Geoff Elliot's book (£57.10, a reduction of £15.66 from last year) and Ramblers' Walking Holidays (£130, an increase of £90 from last year).

The main expenditure was for meetings (£170.49). The cost of hiring the committee room in Dolgellau library increased from £16.50 to £20 and is now £22. The committee holds four committee meetings a year and one AGM. The cost of postage has also increased and Administration costs were £61.50, however this is a reduction on previous years as more communication and bank transfers are being made electronically. The production of the Newsletter cost a further £220.00. Bank charges of £2.60 were made to process cheques and cash from the winter social.

At the end of the year we held a balance of +£1197.66

The Meirionnydd Ramblers account was also used to process receipts and payments for the winter and summer socials.

Jacky Cross and Andrea Whittaker were made signatories to the account.

We have bid for a Central Grant of £500.00 for the coming year.

Plans for this year's expenditure include a training day for leaders and those who are thinking of taking on the role, and a first aid training day.

Carol Ball
Treasurer

RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION LW6 - MEIRIONYDD GROUP 1093577

Year Ending 30/09/2025

Receipts and Payments as of 30/09/2025

Receipts	2024/25	2023/24	Payments	2024/25	2023/24
Central Office	810.00	1,130.00	Groups Grants		
Winter Social	420.00				
Summer Social	672.00	555.00	Newsletters/Publicity	220.00	265.00
Publication Sales		-	Fundraising Costs		
Advertising Sales		-	Safety		47.93
Miscellaneous Income	16.50		Training		400.00
Royalties Geoff Elliot	57.12	72.76	Access		-
Ramblers Holidays	130.00	40.00	Meetings (inc AGM)	170.49	150.86
			Admin	61.50	138.21
			Social Events	1,087.50	555.00
			Bank Charges	2.60	6.60
Total Receipts	2,105.62	1,797.76	Total Payments	1,542.09	1,563.60
Surplus/Deficit on year	563.53	234.16			
Opening Balance on year	634.13	399.97			
Bank Balance	1,197.66	634.13			

Cash Book Year Ended 30th September 2025

RECEIPTS

Date	Ref:	Amount	Details	Central Office Grant	Publication Sales	Misc Income	Royalties	Ramblers Holidays	Social Events
28.10.24	C.O. Grant	810.00		810.00					
18.11.24	RWH	70.00						70.00	
09.01.24	J Elliott	13.39					13.39		
10.02.25	BACS Social	232.50							232.50
13.02.25	Cheques	187.50							187.50
21.05.25	BACS Social	672.00							672.00
21.05.25	RWH	20.00						20.00	
06.06.25	RWH	40.00						40.00	
09.07.25	J Elliott	43.73					43.73		
30.09.25	Donation	16.50				16.50			
		<u>2,105.62</u>		<u>810.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16.50</u>	<u>57.12</u>	<u>1,092.00</u>

Cash Book Year Ended 30th September 2025

PAYMENTS

Date	Ref:	Amount	Details	Training	Access	Meetings	Admin	Social	Newsletter	Publicity	Safety	Bank Charge
14.10.24	398	20.00	Room Hire			20.00						
16.10.24	BACS	12.15	Expenses				12.15					
28.10.24	BACS	23.00	Room Hire AGM			23.00						
30.10.24	BACS	37.34	Refreshments AGM			37.34						
01.12.24	BACS	110.00	Newsletter						110.00			
13.01.25	399	20.00	Room Hire			20.00						
10.02.25	BACS	9.90	Expenses				9.90					
17.02.25	BACS	21.60	Expenses				21.60					
19.02.25	401	14.00	Refund					14.00				
25.02.25	400	401.50	Winter Social					401.50				
31.03.25		2.60	Bank Charge									2.60
22.04.25	402	20.00	Room Hire			20.00						
24.04.25	BACS	30.15	Expenses			30.15						
21.05.25	BACS	672.00	Summer Social					672.00				
25.07.25	403	20.00	Committee Meeting			20.00						
25.07.25	BACS	110.00	Newsletter						110.00			
04.08.25	BACS	17.85	Expenses				17.85					
		<u>1,542.09</u>		-	-	170.49	61.50	1,087.50	220.00	-	-	2.60