

CYMDEITHAS ERYRI the SNOWDONIA SOCIETY AGM
Held on Saturday November 18th 2023 at Plas y Brenin

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

1. Apologies

David Firth, Margareth Thomas, Ellie Salisbury

Attendees:

Helen, Rawlins, Helen Thomas, Howard Peace, Jane Barbrook, Jane Hall, Jos Marien, Bronwen Roberts, Judith Bellis, Julian Pitt, Kay Pitt, Katie Gibbs, Kathy Laws, Martin Hughes, Mike Raine, Netti Collister, Patricia Thyme, Clifton Roberts, Cynthia Hall, David Archer, Glynis Archer, Denis McAteer, Monica McAteer Gillian Foulkes, Peter Foulkes Roger Thomas, K.C. Gordon, Gareth Roberts, Bob Lowe, Peter Moore Katherine Moore Peter Southgate, Deidre Southgate, Sue Peace, William Evans, Andy Tickle, Chloe Bailey, Matthew Teasdale, Mia Walker David Walker, Rory Francis, Sue Beaumont, Jen Willis, Peri Smith, Mary-Kate Jones, Debbie Pritchard, Cai Bishop-Guest, Dan Goodwin, Alf Bodenham

2. Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in 2022 were approved as a true record. Proposed by David Walker and seconded by Jane Barbrook. No matters arising were raised.

3. Chair's Report – Sue Beaumont

- The Chair's review of the year for 2022/23 has been available to members on the Society website, as part of the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts
- Since the last AGM we have faced a number of challenges. Cost of living crisis, the loss of 2 long standing members of staff and finding a new Director.
- Paid a warm thank you on behalf of all trustees to all of the staff who pulled out all of the stops during this time.
- Thanks given to volunteers whose efforts have been outstanding.
- Thanks given to Denis McAteer who is standing down as trustee and who has been a pillar of support.
- Introduction to the new Director Rory Francis.

Rory –

I am delighted to be here with you today. It was a privilege to be the Director of the Snowdonia Society in the 90s and it's a privilege to have the opportunity to do this again. I have accepted the post as I have a desire to make a difference.

The main strength of the Society is the members, but the membership number has fallen. If we want to succeed, we will have to attract new members. You can help, you can ask a friend to join. Have you thought of giving a membership as a gift?

4. Conservation Project Report – Cai Bishop-Guest

- Cai Bishop-Guest gave a summary of the achievements of our practical volunteer team.
- Total figures: 153 sessions, 4,222 volunteer hours, 263 different volunteer participants broken down into projects:
 - **Caru Eryri**
 - 73 Days spent caring for Eryri
 - 149 Volunteers
 - 1,726 Volunteer hours
 - 517 Bags totalling over a tonne
 - 28km Lenth of footpath
 - 9 Cairns removed
 - **Helping hands**
 - 40 days so far
 - 103 Volunteer numbers
 - 1,206 Volunteer hours
 - **Carneddau landscape:**
 - 40 volunteers plus groups.
 - 431 hours
 - 11 Himalayan balsam bashing clearance and training days
 - 34 Volunteers
 - 53 Primary school children
 - **MAD weekend:** 52 volunteers, hours 404
- Thanks given to members as this work could not be done without them.

5&6. Annual Report and Financial Statement – Sue Beaumont

- Trustees' annual report and accounts has been available on our website.
- This is the first report for the first full year of 1st April to 31st March. Prior to this it was June.
- Thanks given to Peri Smith and Wani Ibrahim for putting it together.
- The Society's finances are in a relatively healthy state given the strain of the energy crisis and the war in Ukraine.
- The challenge is to attract new funding.
- Our reserves investment portfolio managed by Rathbones was also affected by the economic situation although it is expected to recover.
- Our fundraising income largely stood up thanks to marketing efforts and the generosity of donors and we also received a legacy of £10,000. Without any of this the Society wouldn't exist.
- The statements do show a deficit, but half of this concerned income received and recorded in the previous year's account and so carried forward into 22/23.
- Reserves remain robust.

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 2022/23 Annual Report and summary of the accounts for the year ending 30th April 2023 was proposed by David Walker and carried *nem con*.
- **Motion to reappoint Williams Denton as independent examiners of the Society's Accounts for 2022/23**
A motion to appoint Williams Denton as independent examiners of the Society's accounts for 2022/23 was proposed by David Archer, seconded by Denis McAteer, and carried *nem con*.

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

The election of all of the following was proposed by Casey Gordon, seconded by David Walker, and carried *nem con*:

- President: Roger Thomas.
- Vice-presidents: His Honour Huw Morgan Daniel CVO KStJ, David Firth, Sir Simon Jenkins
- Jane Barbrook as Vice-chair
- Standing for election for the first time: Rob Collister, Chris Ball and Chloe Bailey.

Trustees not due for rotational re-election this year and continuing to serve: Sue Beaumont, Julian Pitt, Matthew Teasdale and David Walker

Trustees retiring at the AGM: Denis McAteer

9. Questions to the Director and Officers

- Planning issues regarding the hydro scheme in Cwm Cynfal was discussed. The Society will be voicing our opinions.
- Rhaeadr y Cwm was also mentioned and the cultural aspect of keeping this as it is.
- Parking and motor crisis at the National Park was discussed. The Society advocacy group is looking at this, in particular Julian Pitt. The Society are very keen to push for a solution in a strategic way.
- The issue of location of the AGMs was raised. Those without cars find it difficult to attend without relying on lifts or staying overnight. Could the AGMs be held in places where it is much easier for those without cars to get to? Minibuses and lift sharing were mentioned.
There isn't an obvious centre for Eryri and there is always going to be a location that's difficult for some and not others, but the Society will look into hybrid meetings and try to be as inclusive as possible moving forward.
- Can the Society be cautious in supporting the application for a North/East Wales National Park? As far as we know there is no discussion in our advocacy group about supporting that. Politically we have to be very careful as a National Park to object to a National Park.
- It was noted that the translation service and the headsets were not up to par this time.
- Due to the guest speaker not being able to attend in person there were problems with the video quality and volume. This interfered with the translation headsets.

10. Date of the next AGM

Provisional date - 16th November 2024