



Dedicated to research, restore and protect
Mynydd Twmbarlwm - Gwent's most iconic landmark

*Ymroddedig i ymchwilio, adfer a gwarchod
Mynydd Twmbarlwm - tirnod mwyaf eiconig Gwent*

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Annual General Meeting – 2022

Held on Monday 14th November 2022
At The Philanthropic Inn, Pontywaun, NP11 7DU

Provisional 29/11/2022 (for approval at 2023 AGM)

MINUTES

1. PRESENT

Terry Evans (Chair); Sue Evans (Secretary); Martyn Vaughan (Treasurer); Rob Southall; Sam Southall; Bill Fearnley-Whittingstall; Charles Ferris

2. APOLOGIES

Maggie Thomas; Sue Venn; John Venn; Norman Liversuch (Vice Chairman); Les Murphy; Howard Vicary; Sally Davies; Andrew George; Jack Hanbury; Roger Stevenson; Sue Jones.

3. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming members and giving an introduction to the review of the year's activities. (*Full Chairman's Report as attached document*)

4. MINUTES of the AGM held on Monday 29th November 2021

Matters Arising – none
Approved: Prop B F-W, Sec MV

5. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

The constitution requires that all Trustees stand down at the AGM and seek re-election,
Current Trustees are:

Terry Evans – Chair
Sue Evans – Secretary
Martyn Vaughan – Retires as Treasurer and Membership Secretary, will remain as a Trustee.
Norman Liversuch – Vice Chair
Rob Southall
Bill Fearnley-Whittingstall
Sam Southall
Les Murphy
Howard Vicary
Charles Ferris
Sally Davies, Risca Town Council
(Maggie Thomas has resigned as Trustee, but will continue as Volunteering Day Coordinator. The meeting offered a vote of thanks to Maggie Thomas for leading the Volunteer Litterpick Days, in all weathers.)

Trustees were re-elected en-bloc.

6. OFFICERS' REPORTS

6.i – **THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** – summarised the Society's actions and achievements over the previous 12 months, full report is supplied as a separate document.

6.ii – **VICE CHAIR'S REPORT** – Mr Liversuch was unable to attend, but sent us the following report:

SWARD MANAGEMENT PLAN

As Terry said, over the last year the Society, in conjunction with Cadw, the Gwent Wildlife Trust and Howard Vicary, who holds the tenancy for livestock grazing at Twmbarlwm, have been in discussions to review and update the Sward Management Plan prepared in 2018 and identify how it could best be implemented.

Gwent Wildlife Trust agreed to carry out the review and initially it was hoped that we could obtain grant aid to cover the cost. Unfortunately, applications to the Adventure Triangle grant and the grant offered by the waste company, Viridor were unsuccessful as the works we wanted to do did not fully meet the criteria of either grant. Viridor did however tell us they were interested in the wider Twmbarlwm project and would consider future applications from us.

As mentioned earlier the Society agreed to part fund the review whilst we looked for other sources of grant aid. This has meant that survey work has been carried out to confirm the ecology of the area, to assess the effectiveness of the 2018 reseeded, and identify the best way of managing the area to enhance its ecology, reduce the risk of wildfires and protect the monument from erosion.

Initial thoughts are that further reseeded is needed, new paths need to be created to reduce the erosion on the main path through the monument and that the best management technique would probably a mixture of practical control, such as bracken bashing and controlled livestock grazing.

CCBC councillors for the Risca West Ward, who are very supportive of our work, suggested that we apply to CCBC for grant aid under the Community Empowerment Fund to fund the final report and some of its initial findings. We applied in September and I am very pleased to say that, last Friday, we were informed that our application has been successful and grant aid of £7402 has been awarded to us. This will meet the cost of the production of the final report, reseeded and some practical management.

Gwent Wildlife Trust and the tenant identified that, for controlled grazing to work, about a kilometre of new fencing would be needed on the eastern side of Twmbarlwm, the estimated cost of this is £13,200.

CCBC had offered to meet £10,000 of this cost which left the Society to find the balance.

We have been discussions with the tenant and landowner over this and have been successful in finding the money for the fencing scheme to go ahead. However, CCBC has recently confirmed that they will now meet the whole cost of the fencing. All this means that once we have received the final report, we can work with our partners to implement it.

The Sward Management works and the Adventure Triangle works that Terry has already mentioned and which CCBC has today confirmed will be completed by the end of this year, means that our work to protect and enhance Twmbarlwm continues to progress. Our success is in no small part due our good working relationship with our partners and the landowner, the Llanarth Estate, and the support of our members and the local community.

Norman Liversuch

6.iii – TREASURER and MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

A balance sheet was circulated, showing a closing balance of £8,810.60 (as attached) also note a second set of figures were prepared showing the inclusion of Cadw grants.

The Accounts have been Audited by Chartered Accountant Susan Lewis of Park Road, Newbridge and an appropriate certificate logged in the Society's files.

Membership renewals – the Membership renewal date was set as November, from the AGM 2018

We Have 47 paid up members, plus the free memberships given to the 21 Archeology Volunteers, and 1100 Facebook followers.

Earlier this year Martyn announced that he would retire at the AGM as Treasurer and Membership Secretary, but is willing to remain as a Trustee.

The Meeting again discussed the appointment of a new Treasurer, a number of people have been approached recently, but each has declined.

Martyn has agreed to continue in the short term.

The Meeting thanked him for his six years of service.

6.iv – SECRETARY’S REPORT

THE QUEEN’S PLATINUM JUBILEE BEACON

We were contacted by CCBC early in 2022 to ask if we had any plans to light a Beacon on Twmbarlwm for the forthcoming Queens Platinum Jubilee, We had already made contact with the official website as we knew that we were best placed to organize the event, having done the previous two beacons.

At the next Trustees meeting Sally Davies, (Risca Town Council), and I agreed to begin the Beacon arrangements, starting with registering our interest with The Jubilee Pageant master, Bruno Peake.

The original Beacon that we first used for the Silver Jubilee had been in storage, and due to its age would need all the relevant safety checks made, however, we were contacted by Stephen Pugh, CCBC - Head of Communications, who offered to supply a new beacon, and the gas, which we gratefully accepted.

We needed the involvement of several local groups, and we are particularly grateful to 1st Abercarn scouts, who provided marshalling and guidance for visitors, especially after the event, lighting the pathway, when we were descending in the dark.

This left us with the logistics of transporting the Beacon, two heavy cylinders of gas, the safety fencing, and maybe a posse of dignitaries up to the top of the Tump.

I approached South Wales Fire and Rescue, Risca Station, who were delighted to be asked, and four local retained Firefighters volunteered, under the guidance of their Area Commander John Bolton

They came with a Landrover to transport the equipment up to the top. Also offering bumpy rides up the hill to some visitors that couldn’t cope with the terrain

First Aid Cover was supplied by our local St Johns Ambulance, Risca Branch.

Guest of Honour, Chris Evans MP, who is acting president of the Twmbarlwm Society, delivered a short speech, and dedication to the Queen, and led a rendition of the National Anthem before the lighting of the Beacon, by the youngest Scout.

The event went without a hitch, with over 120 people on the mountain, watching a perfect sunset and waiting for the time to light the beacon, and excitedly pointing out all the others beacons for miles around.

We were sent a certificate from the Queen’s Pageantmaster with ‘Grateful Thanks for our Participation’, and we then gave a copy to each of the groups who helped us.

Sue Evans, Secretary

9. EVENTS

Most events organised by the Society are mentioned in the Chairman’s Report document and it is only in recent months after the hiatus of the Covid lockdowns that we have started to organise illustrated talks by guest speakers.

- the first held in September was on the *History of Newport Castle* by Will Davies of Cadw which was well attended by over 40 people and netted us about £70 including a few new memberships.
- and last week we had a talk on the *History of Father Christmas* by Roger Morgan which was attended by under 20 people and netted us about £40.
- There are more talks and events arranged, to be held at Crosskeys RFC, in the new year

These events generate a little bit of money for the society but more importantly it raises our profile and keeps our name in the public eye - it is therefore agreed that we continue to hold such events and seek out interesting speakers and subjects.

7. A.O.B.

NOTICE OF AGM _ 12th November 2023

The notice of AGM is to be issued 21 days in advance of the meeting, to enable proposals and submissions to be presented in good time.

Prop NL, Seconded SE

8. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chair thanked members for attending. He emphasised again that the work of the Society was far from complete, and he encouraged our newly elected Trustees to take us into the New Year with the expectation of several new projects for us to embrace.

Please ensure to see the Chairman's Report supplied as a PDF file entitled:

[Chairs_Report_2021_22_b.PDF](#)