

BRANCH ROUND UP

Membership

Membership runs from January so is now overdue. Open £30, Professional £60. These rates include membership of the National Association, if you are already a national Member Branch membership is £10. Branch supporters pay £5 and receive "Stonechat". Supporters are welcome at meetings and to pop in at events, but have no voting rights, and cannot be directly involved in running events (insurance considerations).

Membership renewals are enclosed in this issue for 2009, in the October/November Winter issue the membership application forms for 2010 will be enclosed, with reminders in the Spring 2010 issue.

Cerrig Competition

A last minute decision was taken to hold the Cerrig competition this year having been concerned that the Branch couldn't really afford it, and that competitor numbers for recent years didn't really justify it. The idea was mooted to those members who were Master Craftsmen that they should make a small donation of £25 each, all those approached agreed that it was a good idea. Two didn't mention that it was a good idea for other master Craftsmen to make a donation, but that's another story. Anyway thanks to Alan, Alaw, Arwel, Gareth & Sean for their £25s. With an additional cheque for £100 from Justin Kellett of Anglesey Masonry Ltd. (Aber Quarry, Moelfre), we had enough to meet a reasonable proportion of the cost and so Judges Vic Hollings from Keighley and Alan Jones (Llangernyw) were signed up. By Wednesday we had 15 entrants, and three commemorative trophies for the winners of each class had arrived. And then.....



I've purloined this photo from "krissyrijo" on a blog www.enjoylifeandprosper.wordpress.com whom I was unable to contact for permission.

Unfortunately the Cerrig show was cancelled and so was the competition as the site rapidly converted into a lake.

Thanks for everyone who entered, hopefully we'll have better luck this year.

Branch Meetings

The AGM was held on The following officers were elected. Chairman- Craig Evans; Vice-chairman - Richard Jones; Treasurer- Gwennan Edwards; Secretary- Sean Adcock; DSWA Management Committee Representative- Gareth Pritchard. Followed by a viewing of Irwin Campbell's "The Broch" DVD. Full copies of the minutes are available from Sean

The next meeting is.....

The meetings start at 7.30 sharp with a brief report from the Branch Officers, followed by any business from the floor. This is followed by the speaker. Arrive at 7 if you want a chat! All venues provide food, arrive in plenty of time to order!

Training

We're running 4 taster days (£10/head) aimed at new-comers, see diary for venues and dates. Please drop in if only to show your support and have a chat. If you'd like to help contact whoever's responsible for the day.

These are backed up by 2 weekend training courses (Again see diary) . £80 for the weekend. Taster course fees are refundable for those attending training course. 10% discount on courses for Branch Members.

Socials

We're holding a BBQ during the Gwynedd Training Course. On Saturday 25th July. The BBQ will be taking place at Beudy Llwyd a renovated barn on Blaen y Nant. It used to be a smithy when the drovers gathered stock at the head of the valley before heading off towards Capel Curig and beyond, its alongside a river and clapperbridge, with a waterfall in the background an idyllic spot and all weather catering. Over a mile of wall has been repaired on Blaen y Nant, all sorts of features, shapes and sizes. There will be a guided walk for all interested, from about 5pm onwards.

All for £5. **B**e there or **B**sQuare

To maintain the party mood here we'll be snacks, cake, tea, coffee and possibly a can following this year's Cerrig Competition. It's free.

Don't forget to arrive early at meetings for a bite to eat and a chat.

Displays

We're hoping to be at the Snowdonia Society Competition, Nant Peris carnival, and a couple of shows in the east. Where and when will be confirmed in the next "Stonechat".

USE IT OR LOSE IT

When I agreed to take over as Secretary I laid down an ultimatum of sorts. Run at least a skeleton programme of a set number of events or I would stand down after a year. Do you want a Branch?

If half the members/supporters attended 2 out of 3 meetings and brought a guest to 1, attendance would be almost doubled and the committee's morale boosted immeasurably. If every member gave up one day to help at an event we'd be able to attend 3 times as many and deal with them more professionally. If half the membership/supporters attended the competition and two-thirds of them competed it would be close to being the biggest competition in Britain.

If YOU gave up 2 evenings and two days a year all this could happen the Branch could grow and the burden spread, instead nothing happens unless carried by one of the committee,

Is it much to ask?

I send out magazines to names I cannot put a face to, it's not as if there are that many to choose from. If the 5 members of the committee didn't do everything there would be no branch, and if you the membership are not careful there won't be one.

Sean

Diary

Date	Event	Contact
18.3	Branch Meeting. 7.30pm Bryn Tyrch, Capel Curig Guest speaker from North Wales Search and Rescue Dog Association	
16.5	Taster Day, Cae Gwyn, Cyffiliog, Ruthin.	Craig
20.5	Committee meeting	
23.5	Taster Day, Blaen y Nant, Nant Ffrancon.	Gareth
27.6	Taster Day, Cae Gwyn, Cyffiliog, Ruthin.	Craig
27.6	Taster Day, Blaen y Nant, Nant Ffrancon.	Gareth
1.7	Branch Meeting. 7.30pm White Lion, Cerrig y Drudion	
18/19.7	Training Course, Cae Gwyn, Cyffiliog, Ruthin.	Craig
25/26.7	Training Course, Blaen y Nant, Nant Ffrancon.	Sean
25.7	BBQ Blaen y Nant, Nant Ffrancon.	Sean
5.9	Competition, Cerrig y Drudion Show.	Sean/Craig
4.11	Branch AGM. Foelas Arms, Pentrefoelas. 7.30pm. Guest Speaker Philip Clark (former DSWA international co-ordinator)	

We also plan to be at 3 shows/events during the summer. Details for these are currently being finalised.

Contacts

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