

# Donna Ryan



I developed a passion for the ‘great outdoors’ in my early teens after going on youth club camps and trips. My first joy was water sports and I pursued the sports of kayaking and sailing enough to begin my early working career in outdoor education. I spent approximately 15 years working in Outdoor Centres, teaching folk to climb, sail canoe etc. before I met my husband whilst at University and decided to retrain so I could get a ‘real’ job and be able to afford to live in the city! I am currently a Social Worker in Criminal Justice; and if it wasn’t for my hubby I still wouldn’t be able to afford to live in the city!!

Whilst working in Plymouth in the mid-eighties I became ‘hooked’ on rock climbing especially traditionally lead climbing, I couldn’t get enough of it. Since then I have always been involved in the sport. I have never been sufficiently obsessed with the performance end of rock climbing to have pushed my grade to any amazing level because it’s always been about the adventure for me and that is why I prefer the ‘mountaineering’ aspects of climbing. I have enjoyed every adventure I have ever had, whether it’s been Tuesday night cragging with the ‘old folk’ in the Cairngorm Club, negotiating the ‘demands’ of a kids climbing club on Sunday nights, off piste skiing in the Alps with my eccentric father in law, or spending wet, damp days in Donegal ‘gardening’ for new route potential with my closest friends in the climbing world.



I am having some of my greatest adventures now with my two kids, Amy and Thomas (some of you will know them!). I have used all my skills and experience to introduce them to the great outdoors, to enthuse and inspire them into having adventures and I hope they meet as many good friends as I have over the years. I am part of their current adventure, to reach their full potential in all aspects of their life.



I have agreed to be the Deputy AYC because of their involvement in the YCS but also because I can bring a lot of experience to this post and will continue to enthuse and inspire kids and young people in this sport and in the hills in general.

Recently I injured my ankle whilst bouldering, the casualty doctor who treated me said: *‘I know you. You took me climbing and gyhll scrambling when I was a wee boy... it was brilliant!’*

I realise now, that I have been enthusing kids all of my life.