



RAMBLERS' GROUP NEWS – SPRING 2014

Current Programme: During January and February the wet and windy weather continued to plague many of our walks, to the extent that attendances on a couple of the Wednesday walks were depleted. But lo and behold late February and March blessed us with some mild and sunny weather which has brought out snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils and primroses.

Carmarthenshire Coast Path: Hannah's project of walking the Wales Coast Path continued on 1st February with a 10 mile walk from Amroth to Laugharne.

Cambrian Way: In spite of the heavy rain, saturated conditions underfoot, jumping across swollen mountain streams and even sinking into the bog, attendances on the two Cambrian Way walks in February continued to attract 30 plus walkers.

Offa's Dyke Weekend: Organised by Peter and Ian and based in Monmouth, 22 walkers ticked off two further (as described by one of the attendees) wonderful sections of Offa's Dyke.

Cawl Walk: Once again Jeff Davies together with his catering team of Diana, John M and Ann M did the 70 plus Country Park walkers proud with their copious supply of cawl which was complemented with cheese, bread, welsh cakes and scones; finished off with hot orange/mulled wine.

Yet to come in this Programme.

Crickhowell Weekend – 12th and 13th April 2014 – Based in Crickhowell ; there is an offer of a short and a long walk each day. Both the long and the short walks are going to the same destination but by different routes.

For further details **Hazel 01554-755331.or Jeff 01554-833099.**

Symonds Yat: 20th April 2014 Grieson is leading an 80th birthday 8 mile celebration walk at Symond's Yat. Incidentally Grieson will have celebrated his birthday on 18th April. 2014.

Cambrian Way: There are still a number of walks still to come on this programme, thus by the end of the programme 18 sections of the Cambrian Way will have..

will have been completed, amounting to a total of 165 miles; leaving 109 miles to the end of the walk at Conway.

Social Events: - The February (musical quiz organized by Betty, Gerald, Jean and John) and March (HF Travel walking holiday presentation) social evenings were well attended (over 30 on each evening). *Next social 10th April – “Do You Know your Friends”*

Twmpath Dawns: The Twmpath of 28th February which was held in Llanelli Catholic Hall was another roaring success. The 70 plus who attended were treated to a spectacular evening of Welsh Folk Dancing with an interlude meal of Fish and Chips all of which were washed down with self supplied beverages.

Summer Programme: The forthcoming summer programme is full of many interesting and exciting walks and events. During the last programme a number of new leaders appeared, undaunted by their experiences, they've come back for more, by offering their services on the new programme. In addition, there are 6 more new leaders and we welcome back a couple of former leaders who haven't lead walks for some time. It is thanks to everyone who has contributed that we have such an excellent programme that is the envy of many other walking groups.

Big Welsh Walk 3rd - 4th May: Ramblers' Cymru's big drive to get Wales walking and enjoy the Welsh Countryside gets underway over the May Day weekend- its theme the Welsh Coastal Path and Offa's Dyke. Once again we'll be offering a variety of walks in the Llanelli area to attract local people. The crowning effort will be a Family Fun Day on Monday 5th May, when Diana will lead a walk along the coastal path from Burry Port to Llanelli, culminating in the Catholic Hall for light refreshments. Entertainment will be provided en route and a bus will ferry people to the start of the walk from Llanelli.

Start 10.00am. Cost £1 per adult. 50p per child.

Monday Groups – Homers and Roamers caters for members who would like shorter walks:
Contact

*Roamer's David 01792-904133
Homer's Eileen 01554-741306*

River Tawe Boat Trip – Thursday 29th May.

Hazel is organizing a boat trip on the River Tawe. Aboard “Copper Jack our boat trip leaves from Swansea Museum Historic Vessels Pontoon and follows the Tawe upstream as far as the Liberty Stadium. Along the way you will pass many interesting industrial heritage sites. Meet at Llanelli Leisure Centre at 4.45pm or at start at 5.45pm. The “Copper Jack” will leave at 6.00pm prompt from the Swansea Museum Historic Vessels Pontoon **Adults £8 Concession £6, Children £5. Please Book and pay by 1st May.**

Festival of Walks 23rd to 26th May 2014:

The programme is now out. There are 15 walks, with a variety that offers a walk(s) suitable for all abilities. Though the main theme of the programme is the centenary of the birth of “Dylan Thomas” there are also walks which take in the Brecon Beacons and the Black Mountains. The Friday evening get together is in the Conservative Club; where the Festival will be opened by Nia Griffiths MP; the Sunday Party is a Twmpath in the Catholic Hall, with Cawl supplied by Jeff Davies and his Welsh Ladies.(bring your own beverages soft drinks or alcoholic) The Welsh Tea will be as usual in the Catholic Hall. **Come and Support your Festival.**

Flat Holm – Thursday 12th June 2014

Hazel is organizing a trip to the historic island of Flat Holme.

Flat Holm is a limestone island which includes the most southerly point and lies in the Bristol Channel approximately 4 miles from Lavernock Point. One of the most famous events that occurred on the island was the first wireless transmission by Guglielmo Marconi from Flat Holm to Lavernock Point.

The coach leaves Llanelli Town Hall at 6.30am, travels to Cardiff Barrage; and board “The Westward Hoe” which leaves the barrage at 8.15am. We land on Flat Holm at 9.45am for a guided tour; and leave the island at 3.45pm arriving back in Cardiff at 6.00pm. Note: only a limited amount of snacks can be purchased on the island.

The cost is: £24 per head for the ship + £6 per head for the coach + £5 per head landing fee = Total of £35 per person.

For further details contact Hazel: 01554 - 755331

Carmarthenshire Coastal Path:

Undaunted by her exploits on the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path. Hannah is now tackling the rest of the Welsh Coast. There are four legs on the new programme ranging from Laugharne to Ferryside.

Preseli Birthday Celebration Walks: Saturday 19th July 2014. A choice of a 9 mile B grade linear walk from Crymych to Rosebush or a 6 mile C grade circular walk from Rosebush. Both walks followed by a special birthday celebration for one of our distinguished members at Tafern y sinc.

Coach transport is provided – prior bookings and payments required . **Details to follow.**

Annual Summer Camp at Pembrey 22nd to 25th August 2014.

Come to Pembrey Country Park for the weekend or for the day and join a weekend of family fun and games incl Walks, Beach Combing, Poems and Pints, BBQ and a Talent Competition.

For further information contact: Hazel:01554-755331

Barmouth Weekend- 30th – 31st August 2014

As the Cambrian Way continues northwards, we reach Barmouth – the gateway to the rugged Rhinogydd. Given the travel time from Llanelli and the isolated terrain, there are limited opportunities to break up this 25 mile stretch, so we’re having to spend a week-end in Barmouth, but it’s make your own way there and book your own accommodation. **Further information from John Maudsley – 01792-298354**

Cornwall Holiday 8th to 15th September 2014.

Based at Hayle near St Ives, it is planned over six days to walk the approximately 40 miles of the South West Coastal Path from Portreath to Lands End.

For further information contact Adrienne & Huw on: 01554751777.

Agen Twinning Holiday: Arrangements are now complete for 24 Llanelli Ramblers’ to go on an exchange visit to Randonneurs Del’ Agenais over the period 25th Sept to 2nd Oct 2014; flying to Toulouse then by coach to the Pyrenees for a two night stay. Then travel to Agen for a five night stay.

Offa’s Dyke: - 4th October 2014 - Peter and Ian are offering a 4th leg of Offa’s Dyke Long Distance Path.

30th Anniversary – This year Llanelli Ramblers’ celebrates its 30th Anniversary on 25th – 26th October 2014. Details of the celebration are currently being discussed.

The 2013/2014 Winter Programme

to Date: In spite of experiencing some very wet weather this winter, all the walks on our programme have gone ahead without any cancellations and only minimal modification. Some of the highlights of the programme to date are as follows:

Remembrance Sunday Walk: On a sunny but crisp Autumn Day 36 Llanelli Ramblers led by Alwyn Williams made their annual pilgrimage to the site of the crashed Wellington Bomber MF509, located at Carreg Coch, the mountain high above Dan yr Ogor Caves. During the trek upwards they were joined by other walkers, all wishing to pay tribute to those who had made the ultimate sacrifice. As they neared the crash site their first glimpse of the Canadian flag blowing in the wind against the backdrop of a clear blue sky was very dramatic. It had been placed on the wreckage by Arwel Michael in tribute to the six Canadian crew members, who lost their lives on that fateful night in November 1944.

The group now consisting of 92 walkers formed a semi circle around the memorial stone. All were silent whilst Robert Davies recited the poem "Flanders Field" by John McCrae, followed by Huw Francis laying a wreath of poppies.

Alwyn Williams then read Robert Laurence Binyan's poignant words. "They shall grow not old-----".

At 11.00am the assembled group joined together for two minutes silence; followed by the singing of "Abide with Me".

The service was captured on film especially for the Canadian families. The service was concluded with a collection for the British Legion.

Cambrian Way: On this programme a further two legs of the Cambrian Way have been completed, reaching Towy Bridge near Rhandirmwyn; with the number of walkers continuing to average well over 30.

A critical factor in the success of the Cambrian Way has been the use of buses from Llanelli Leisure Centre.

Wales Air Ambulance Donation: This year's donation to Wales Air Ambulance totaled **£600.50**. This amount was collected from two sources:

£326.50 from making a donation in lieu of giving each other Christmas Cards.

Walks Etiquette: Ahead of the Summer Programme meeting, and given the number of new leaders, it's perhaps timely to remind group members that there are certain "unwritten" rules need to be followed, to make the leader's role less troublesome:

Do respect the leader and follow their instructions at all time.

Monday Groups: Both Groups of Monday Walkers: **Homer's** and **Roamer's** continue to offer short walks of 3 to 4 miles; whilst retaining their ethos of "**Must have a Bus Pass, No Hills, No Mud, No**

Stiles" As their names suggest the Homer's walks are in Llanelli and District whilst the Roamer's walks are further afield.

For Roamer's David Quarmby 01792-904133

For Homer's Eileen Beaumont 01554-741306

£274 from the spoelenship of nine Llanelli Ramblers' dressed as **Clowns** who participated in the "Pembrey Boxing Day Walrus Dip"

New Walk Leaders: It is refreshing to report that our new walk leaders are in spite of some inclement weather successfully leading their maiden walks.

Santa Trail Family Walk: On 28th December 2013, Alwyn Williams assisted by Back Markers Jeff and Sonia Thomas led and followed the Santa Trail which had been pre-way marked by Mrs Santa (Diana Bennett). The trailer's were made up 23 children, 44 adults plus three dogs followed the four mile alphabetical A to Z Santa trail through the forest paths of Pembrey Country Park onto the beach where the children practiced their sand coastering on the sand dunes.

The walk ended at the ex "Go Ape Cabin" where Mr and Mrs Christmas (Diana and Jeff) had prepared a feast of hot orange and cakes for the children and hot mulled wine and mince pies for the adults. The day culminated with rides on the toboggan run for the children.

Organizational Issues: On 5th November 2013 the 30th Annual General Meeting of the Llanelli Group of the Ramblers' was held in the Half Way Hotel and was attended by 40 members.

The meeting received reports from:

The Chairman, Treasurer, Walks and Programme Secretary, Membership Secretary, and Festival of Walks Chairman all of which were constructively discussed.

The chairman told the meeting that there had been only one nomination, that of Margaret Brinley for the position of Social Secretary. The chairman also informed the meeting that all the current officers had shown willingness to remain in post. The 2013/2014 committee is as follows:

Chairperson	- John Cook
Treasurer	- David Clemenston
Minute Sec	- Heather Stretch
Walks and Programme Sec	- John Maudsley
Membership Sec	- Robert O'Dell
Monday Club Rep	- David Quarmby
Footpaths Officer	- Jeff Davies
Social Sec	- Margaret Brindley
Publicity Officer	- Eileen Beaumont

Don't walk in front of the leader, unless otherwise instructed – you cannot assume that you know the way,

Do respect the owner of the property over which you may be walking- in particular their privacy, their livestock, their crop.

Avoid loud behaviour and disturbance to livestock.

Keep dogs under control.

Do close gates – don't assume that walkers following will do so.

Do walk on the correct side of the road- don't straggle the carriageway.

In larger groups, keep an eye out for walkers following, especially at path junctions.

If walkers become detached-let the leader know (use your whistle).

Winter Programme continues:

The Cambrian Way Long Distance Walk programme restarts with walk No 14 on 15th February 2014. By May the walk will have crossed the Pumlunnon and by the end of the Summer Programme we should be at Tan-y-grisiau Conway. Those interested please contact Alwyn Williams Tel No 01554-773597 for transport details.

Offa's Dyke Weekend – 22nd and 23rd March 2014 – Based in Monmouth. For further details contact Peter/Ian 01554741480.

Crickhowell Weekend – 12th and 13th April 2014 – Based in Crickhowell ; there is an offer of a short and a long walk each day.

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Symonds Yat: 20th April 2014 – Greison.s 80th birthday celebration walk. For further details Greison – Mob 0750 8304 615

Social Events: The winter programme of Social Evenings have proved and will continue to prove to be very successful. An Antiques Road Show in October 2013, A Beetle Drive in December 2013 and a night at the races in January 2014.

Other Social Events: Wednesday 11th December 2013 the Christmas Lunch at the Stradey Park Hotel was attended by 67 Llanelli Ramblers'. After an excellent carvery lunch the group led by Alwyn sang a selection of Christmas Carols.

Newsletter Editor
Web Sec

- Huw Francis
- Nina Clements

Saturday 25th January 2014 our Annual Dinner as held also at the Stradey Park Hotel. There was an attendance of 73 who tucked into a delicious three course meal; following which the night was danced away to the music of the resident disco.

Future Walking and Social Events:

Next month on 13th February 2014 there is a musical quiz hosted by Jean, John and Betty. Then on Thursday 13th March 2014 there is a presentation by HF Travel on walking holidays which also includes a free buffet. Our final social in this series will be on Thursday 10th April 2014 when Eileen, Julia and Monica are staging “**How well do you know your friends?**” **Come along to these Social Evenings You will thoroughly enjoy yourself.**

Friday 28th February 2014: Twmpath at Llanelli Catholic Hall – A Welsh folk dance plus Fish and Chips all for £7.50. Bring your own liquid refreshments, cutlery and drinking vessel. Tickets can be purchased from: Monica or Adrienne.

Festival of Walks 23rd to 26th May 2014:

All the walks, walk leaders and back markers are in place. The theme being “Dylan Thomas Centenary”. Festival Programmes should be available mid February. The Friday evening get together is in the Conservative Club; Festival to be opened by Nia Griffiths MP; the Sunday Party is a Twmpath in the Catholic Hall, with Cawl supplied by Jeff Davies and his Welsh Ladies. The Welsh Tea will be as usual in the Catholic Hall. **Come and Support your Festival.**

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