



30th Anniversary Souvenir Brochure

1984



2014

Welcome

2014 is the year in which the Llanelli Group of Ramblers celebrates its 30th Anniversary. Set up in 1984 by a group of local walkers, the group has grown in membership over the years and its programme of walks and social events has developed into one of the best in Wales. What better way to celebrate **30** years of walking and socialising than by arranging a celebratory programme of walks and social events which can be enjoyed by **all** members!

Members of the 30th Anniversary Sub-Committee have searched the archives and have met with founder members to put together this programme of events. It was felt appropriate that the main feature of the celebrations should be none other than a **30** mile walk around the outskirts of Llanelli based on the walks documented by a former member, Colin Davies, in his book, *32 Scenic Walks in the Llanelli Area*. Within the last thirty years the landscape of Llanelli has changed dramatically and some of the original footpaths have been re-routed or become cycle tracks and new footpaths have been opened. It is, however, still possible to complete Colin's 'Llanelli Circular' walk using original footpaths wherever possible. It is intended to complete this walk, across various types of terrain and with breathtaking views of Llanelli and the Gower, in five stages between October 2014 and April 2015.

It would not be a 'celebration' of **30** wonderful years without an Anniversary Dinner, which will be held on Friday, 24th October 2014 in the Function Room at Machynys Golf Club. There will also be two other social activities, *during* Walk 1 and *after* Walk 5. Please see the arrangements for these events in the details of these walks.

We are very much aware of how difficult it is to put together a programme which would suit everyone. We have therefore planned walks of differing lengths for four of the five stages (Walks 1, 2, 3 and 5). You will find details of the different length walks on the following pages. We have also arranged different types of social events in the hope that the programme

will appeal to the majority of our members. We sincerely hope that you will find something in the programme which will suit you, whether it is the full **30** mile circular walk or one or two shorter walks, the Anniversary Dinner or possibly the coffee break during Walk 1 or the Hog Roast after Walk 5, in the grounds of Stradey Castle.

Please do not hesitate to contact one of the Sub-Committee members if you would like more information than is provided in this booklet.

We hope you will enjoy what we have arranged and look forward to seeing you during the year.

Sub-Committee of Llanelli Ramblers

Eileen Beaumont, Margaret Brindley, Daphne Davies, Heather Stretch – supported by Barbara Ahmad, Julie Banfield, Clive Boyles, Dianne Gould Cunnick, Angus Macinnes, John Maudsley, Ann Moore, Rita Parry and Monica Rees.

We would like to thank those members who have provided photographs for the brochure.

We have made every effort to verify the details given in this brochure and apologise for any inaccuracies or omissions.

30th Anniversary of the Llanelli Group of Ramblers - 2014/2015

Programme of Events

Friday, 24th October 2014:

30th Anniversary Dinner

Venue:	The Function Room at Machynys Golf Club
Date:	24 th October 2014
Time:	7pm for 7.30pm
Menu:	3 course meal with choice of courses
Price:	£20
Dress Code:	Smart casual
MC:	Dianne Gould Cunnick
Co-ordinator:	Margaret Brindley

Menu

Starters

- Home Made Soup du Jour, with Freshly Baked Bread
- Chicken and Duck Liver Pâté, flavoured with Orange and Port, Spiced Tomato Chutney and Toasted Brioche
- Wild Mushroom and Spinach Risotto, with Rocket and Parmesan Salad

Main Courses

- Slow Braised Neck of Lamb with Buttered Curly Kale, Cream Potatoes, and a Reduced Red Currant and Rosemary Sauce
- Free Range Roast Supreme of Chicken, Sauté Lyonnaise, Chorizo Potatoes with a Roast Red Pepper and Basil Oil Dressing
- Baked Fillet of Salmon with a Fresh Herb Crust, Crushed New Herb Potatoes with Roast Red Pepper and Basil Oil Dressing

Desserts

- Vanilla Poached 'Stone Fruits' Yogurt Sorbet and Homemade Granola
- Chocolate Fondant with Honeycomb Ice Cream
- Buttermilk Pannacotta with a Blackberry, Honey and Thyme Compôte

Llanelli Group of Ramblers

30th Anniversary Walk

Llanelli Circular Walk – based on the walk designed by former member, Colin Davies

Saturday, 25th October 2014

Llanelli Circular Walk 1

There will be one circular walk which will be divided into three stages of different lengths.

The walk will start and finish at Llanelli Leisure Centre where parking is available. Each stage will be led by a member of the group from whom further information is available if required. You may choose to walk one, two or all three stages. Once you have reached the end point of the stage you have chosen to walk, you will then walk back to the Leisure Centre.

Start time from the Leisure Centre: 10 am

Please note: As we are using the grounds of Stradey Castle, **NO** dogs are allowed on this walk.

Walk Routes:

- (i) **Llanelli Leisure Centre to Stradey Castle.**

Leaders: Eileen Beaumont and Heather Stretch; Distance: 4 miles; Grade: D

Please note: if you decide not to continue on to the next stage of the walk you will return to the Leisure Centre independently.

(ii) Llanelli Leisure Centre to Furnace Ponds and Swiss Valley, via Stradey Castle.

Leader: Daphne Davies; Distance: 6 miles; Grade: C

(iii) Llanelli Leisure Centre to Upper Swiss Valley Reservoir, via Stradey Castle, Furnace Ponds and Swiss Valley.

Leader: Monica Rees; Distance: 10 miles; Grade: C

Refreshments will be served at Stradey Castle at the end of the first stage of the walk. Please would you let Eileen Beaumont or Daphne Davies know if you will be joining us on this stage so that we can make appropriate catering arrangements with the Castle and issue you with a ticket for the event. Early booking is essential as the number they can cater for is limited.

Contact Numbers:

Eileen Beaumont: 01554 741306
Daphne Davies: 07548 018859
Monica Rees: 01554 820350
Heather Stretch: 07815 010417

Saturday, 29th November 2014

Llanelli Circular Walk 2

There will be **two** linear walks available, both starting at Felinfoel Church. The shorter walk will end at Penclacwydd and the longer one at Bynea Gate. Those doing the 'short walk' should park in the lower section of the car park at Penclacwydd (the section furthest away from the Visitors' Centre) and a coach will take us to the start point in Felinfoel. Those walkers who wish to complete the longer walk should park in the long stay car park at Bynea Gate.

Start time from Bynea Gate: 9.50 am Start time from Penclacwydd: 10 am

Contribution towards transport: £1 per person. Please contact Heather Stretch to reserve a seat on the coach.

(i) Felinfoel Church to Penclacwydd.

Leaders: Eileen Beaumont and Heather Stretch; Distance: 7 miles; Grade: C

This walk will take us from Felinfoel along established paths to Llangennech and Bynea, returning to Penclacwydd along sections of the original as well as the

more recently established Coastal Path. There will be some road walking at the beginning of the walk but we will soon join well established paths.

There are points along the way for those who would like to walk some of the way but not the full 7 miles. These are on bus routes (Llangennech; Bynea) which will take you back into town (not Penclacwydd). Please speak with one of the leaders for further information.

(ii) **Felinfoel Church to Bynea Gate.**

Leaders: John and Eva Cook; Distance: 10 miles; Grade: C

This walk will start at Felinfoel Church (as in the shorter walk) but the route will then head north and join the St Illytd's Walk near Porth Dafen. It will continue along the Walk through Troserch and then head south and west towards Allt, finally arriving at Bynea Gate.

Contact Numbers:

Eileen Beaumont:	01554 741306
John and Eva Cook:	01554 759211
Heather Stretch:	07815 010417

Saturday, 28th February 2015

Llanelli Circular Walk 3

There will be **two** linear walks available, sharing the same route for some of the time.

Start time from Burry Port: 9.45am Start time from Recreation Ground at Pwll: 10 am

Contribution towards transport: £1 per person. Please contact Heather Stretch to reserve a seat on the coach.

(i) **Penclacwydd to the Recreation Ground at Pwll**

Leader: Sandra Bennett; Distance: 6 miles; Grade: D

This walk will start at Penclacwydd and finish at the Recreation Ground (off the Pwll road). We will park in the car park at the Recreation Ground and take the transport provided to Penclacwydd from where we will walk along the Coastal Path to North Dock and then on to the Recreation Ground.

There are points on the way for those who would like a shorter walk. These are on bus routes which will take you back into town (Morfa, Machynys near Lidl, North Dock) or you could catch a bus to Pwll from Sandy Water Park. Please speak with the leader for further information.

(ii) Bynea Gate to Burry Port

Leaders: Jim and Mary Buttimore; Distance: 10 miles; Grade: C

Please note: As the route goes through the grounds of Stradey Castle, **NO** dogs are allowed on this walk.

This walk will start at Bynea Gate and finish in Burry Port. We will park in the car park at Burry Port and take the transport provided to Bynea Gate. We will then head towards Llanelli along the Coastal Path, meeting up with the walkers of the shorter walk en route. We will continue along the Coastal Path to Pwll where we will join the St Illtyd's Walk which we will follow westwards to Cwm Capel before heading south to Burry Port.

Contacts:

Sandra Bennett: 01554 777772
Jim and Mary Buttimore: 01554 832771
Heather Stretch: 07815 010417

Saturday, 21st March 2015

Llanelli Circular Walk 4

There will be **one** linear walk available.

The Recreation Ground in Pwll to Pembrey.

Start time from Penybedd, outside Pembrey Country Park: 10 am

Contribution towards transport: £1 per person. Please contact Heather Stretch to reserve a seat on the coach.

Leaders: Julie Banfield and Eileen Beaumont; Distance: 6 miles; Grade: C

This is a linear walk starting at the car park at the Recreation Ground in Pwll and finishing at Penybedd, outside Pembrey Country Park. We will park in the car park at Penybedd and take the transport provided to the start of the walk at the Recreation Ground. The route will follow the more recently established Coastal Path as well as digressing through woodland, passing Pembrey Harbour and crossing the Golf Course before returning to Penybedd.

Contacts:

Julie Banfield: 01554 741306
Eileen Beaumont: 01554 741306
Heather Stretch: 07815 010417

Saturday, 11th April 2015

Llanelli Circular Walk 5

There are **two** walks available.

Please note: As we are using the grounds of Stradey Castle, **NO** dogs are allowed on this walk

(i) Penybedd to Stradey Castle.

Start time from Stradey Castle: 10 am

Contribution towards transport: £1 per person. Please contact Heather Stretch to reserve a seat on the coach.

Leaders: Julie Banfield and Eileen Beaumont; Distance: 6 miles; Grade: C+

This is a linear walk from Penybedd to Stradey Castle. We will park our cars at Stradey Castle and take the transport provided to Penybedd. We will pass Cwrt Farm, from where there are fantastic views of Llanelli, walk along the Graig to Cwm Capel, and on towards Penymynydd from where we will follow the footpath back to Stradey Castle. Our walk ends in the grounds of the Castle where we will celebrate the achievement of completing the Llanelli Circular Walk with a **Hog Roast**.

(ii) Burry Port to Burry Port (with options of walking along Coastal Path to Stradey Castle or from Cwm Capel)

Start time from Burry Port: 10 am

Leaders: Huw and Adrienne Francis; Distance 10 miles; Grade: C

This is a circular walk from Burry Port. We will park in the car park at Burry Port and will follow the Coastal Path from Burry Port to the start of St Illtyd's Walk in Pembrey Country Park. We will then walk along the Walk back to Burry Port. There will be an option of walking along the Coastal Path from Burry Port (at the end of the walk) to Stradey Castle to join in the **Hog Roast** or, if you do not have a car in Burry Port, you could return to the Castle along St Illtyd's Walk beyond Cwm Capel.

Please note: you will need to purchase a ticket (price to be confirmed) for the Hog Roast from Eileen Beaumont or Heather Stretch as we need to inform the caterers of numbers attending.

Contacts:

Julie Banfield: 01554 741306
Eileen Beaumont: 01554 741306
Huw and Adrienne Francis: 01554 751777
Heather Stretch: 07815 010417



Local walk



Llandysul



Pontsticill Festival Walk 2012

Colin Davies

The 30 mile walk, which has been adopted as our group's 30th Anniversary Walk, was the brainchild of Colin Davies, a keen walker and a very active member of Llanelli Ramblers. Colin was instrumental in mapping and documenting the route of the St Illtyd's Walk to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Llanelli Ramblers in 1994. The route of the St Illytd's Walk, a long distance (64 miles) walk from Pembrey Country Park to Margam Country Park, is shown on the OS map of the area (Explorer 178) and is clearly signposted. The Guide Book, which he wrote to accompany the Walk, was well received and this led him to respond to requests to produce a guide book describing some of the many local walks in the Llanelli area. The guide book, entitled *32 Scenic Walks in the Llanelli Area*, has proved to be an excellent walker's guide to Llanelli and is a testament to Colin's dedication to and enthusiasm for walking and the outdoors. Colin was also very keen on cycling and wrote a book entitled 'Let's Go Cycling', in which he documented ten cycling routes in the Llanelli area.

Colin was a member of the Llanelli Mountaineering Club which supported the Ramblers in its early stages in the 1980s. He was the 'inspiration' behind the Festival of Walks and

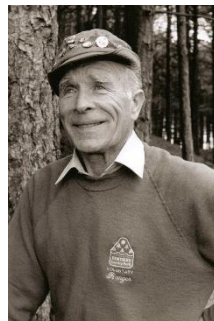
chaired the committee for many years from its inauguration in 1995. He was a voluntary ranger at Pembrey Country Park and was also a member of Llanelli Cor Meibion.

Sadly, Colin passed away at the beginning of March 2008, two weeks before he would have been 78. His widow, Audrey, has been invited to the Anniversary Dinner as our guest.

(Source: Introduction of '32 Scenic Walks in the Llanelli Area' by Colin Davies; Llanelli Ramblers Newsletter Spring 2008)



Colin Davies, en route - Crib Goch 1985



Colin Davies (South Wales Evening Post photograph)

Photographs have been reproduced with the kind permission of Mrs Audrey Davies.

The Llanelli Group of Ramblers..... delving into the archives!

Have you ever thought about how the Llanelli Ramblers started thirty years ago? *Well*

On 4th October 1984 a Public Meeting 'to form the Llanelli Ramblers' Association Group' was held in the YMCA at 7.30 pm. This was chaired by Mr Bob Pucknel who introduced two speakers, Andrew Dalby, the Assistant Secretary of the Ramblers' Association, and Beverley Penney, the Welsh Officer of the Ramblers' Association.

Thirty five members of the public attended the meeting, some of whom remain members today.

At the meeting were

Beverley Penney
Margaret Richards
Shelagh Seery
Andrea Matthews

E.M.Phillips
Julie C Banfield
Martin Banfield
Tom Nuttall

Bob Cunningham
David North
Norman Evans
Patrick and Patricia Ball

Michael James
Glenys Tayson
Gordon Davies
Paul Diverres
Joan Cunningham
Brian Stringer
Lyn Marshall
Alan Hussey
Denzal Williams

Gwen Oram
Ralph Oram
P J Walters
Rita Davies
Corris Edwards
G & M Williams
Carl Christopher Gower
J W H Thomas
Miss Diane Rees

Mrs J Rees
Miss J Rees
P Fennel
D H G Fennel

Are any of these names familiar to you?!

A further five people made enquiries about the Public Meeting.

The Agenda stated that the Chairman would invite a member of the audience to propose the resolution 'that a Ramblers' Association Group be formed in Llanelli' and that, if the resolution were carried, 'then a Steering Committee be recruited to run the Group for the first few months pending the election of a full committee'. A Walks Programme, consisting of two walks, was planned for the month of October and is recorded in the archives as follows:

Saturday, 6th October: A fairly easy walk from Llanelli town centre to Swiss Valley and back. Start at 1pm at Coleshill Terrace, Llanelli for a 6 mile walk lead by Mr Evans.

Sunday, 21st October: A more strenuous walk on the moorland around Pontardulais. Start at 9.30 am at Coleshill Terrace, Llanelli for a day long 10 mile walk, lead by Mr Williams. Please bring a packed lunch.

Please wear strong shoes or walking boots and carry waterproof clothing with you.

A hand written 'Walks Record' records a meeting held on Tuesday, 30th October 1984 at 7pm at the YMCA when a talk, entitled 'Sweat and Tears', was given by Mr G Williams as an 'Introduction to Rambling'.

The **first General Meeting (AGM)** of the Llanelli Ramblers' Association was held on Wednesday, 23rd January 1985 at 7pm at the YMCA. The minutes of this meeting record that the Chairman of the meeting, Mr Tom Nuttall, 'made a short speech on the beginning of the R.A. and the group's success so far'. He asked the meeting that the constitution be accepted and Mr Geoffrey Williams proposed the motion which was seconded by Mr Phil Rosser. Officers appointed at the meeting were

Chairman: Mr Tom Nuttall (nominated by Mr Carl Gower; seconded by Mrs Penny Fennell)

Treasurer: Miss Elizabeth Evans (nominated by Mrs Rita Davies; seconded by Mr Gordon Davies)

Secretary: Mrs Penny Fennell (nominated by Mr Norman Evans; seconded by Mrs Rita Davies)

Ordinary members, proposed by Mrs Shelagh Seerey and seconded by a 'unanimous audience', were Mr David Fennel, Mrs Rita Davies, Mr Ian McConkey, Mr Carl Gower, Mr Norman Evans, Mr Geoff Williams and Mr Phil Rosser.

Mr Pat Ball thanked the Steering Committee for their work in getting the group started.

Forty three people attended the AGM. Are any of these names familiar to you?

Beverley Penney	Phil Rosser	G T Hughes
Amanda Lloyd	Wyn Evans	T E Fennell
Ceinwen Lloyd	Carl Gower	John & Beryl Barnard
Michael James	G Thorne	Rita Davies
Bob Cunningham	Elizabeth Evans	Pam and Roy Barker
Joan Cunningham	Margaret Richards	Russell Holmes
Norman Evans	Shelagh Seery	David & Penny Fennel
Douglas Williams	Pat & Pat Ball	Catherine & Tony Chin
David Sweetman	Sharon Cox	Tom Nuttall
Tony David	Sharon Marke	Bruce Wallace
Beryl Hughes	Karen John	
Gordon Davies	Carol Holmes	
Peter Barclay	Adrian Evans	
Ian McConkey	Geoff Williams	

Records show that the **first Committee Meeting** was held at the YMCA on January 29th 1985. Committee members present were Mr Tom Nuttall (Chairman), Mrs Penny Fennell (Secretary),

Miss Elizabeth Evans (Treasurer), Mr David Fennell (Footpath Officer – appointed at the meeting), Mr Carl Gower (Publicity Secretary – appointed at the meeting), Mr Geoff Williams, Mr Tony Chin, Mr Norman Evans and Mr Ian McConkey. Issues discussed at this first meeting included the walks programme, weekends away walking, linking with the Llanelli Mountaineering Club ‘to boost interest in both groups’ and the sharing of transport to walks. The **second meeting** of the committee was arranged for 6th March 1985.

So, the Llanelli Group of Ramblers was well and truly launched!

BUSY wearing out shoe leather — but happy about it — are the keen hikers of Llanelli's new Ramblers Association group.

After the inaugural meeting last October to test support, a regular programme of walks was organised on a twice-monthly basis.

The response was such that in January it was decided to form a permanent group.

In grades

The walks are graded A,B,C, varying in length from 12 miles to four miles, and differing in terrain from mountain path to country lane.

The programme takes in walks on many Llanelli's maze of local footpaths as well as around outlying areas.

The group organised their first weekend ramble at St. David's, Pembrokeshire, over the May-Day Bank Holiday. They spent two nights at St. David's, either camping or at a Ramblers Association recommended guest-house.

Since this year is the 50th anniversary of the national Ramblers Association, the group are helping to contribute by walking a section of the Jubilee Walk.

This is a trans-Wales North to South Walk which started at Llandudno on May 4 and ends at Cardiff on August 10.

The group intend walking a nine-

Stepping out on walk-abouts

mile section on Saturday, July 13, which will start at Ystradfellte.

Watchful

The Association and local group also help clear overgrown footpaths and keep a watchful eye on the hundreds of miles of footpaths within their area.

Anyone interested in joining the group can contact the secretary, Mrs. P. Fennel, of 9, Cleviston Park, Llangennech, Tel. 821146.

The programme of walks is displayed in the Llanelli Y.M.C.A. window and at other locations in public buildings around Llanelli.

Source: unknown; Date: 1985; from the archives of the Llanelli Ramblers

Where did the newly formed Llanelli Ramblers walk?

There are many walk programmes included in the archives. Here is a sample of the walks which the new group undertook in the first few months of their existence, taken from the original hand written Walks Programme.

Date	Area	Leader
Tues 30 th Oct 84	Introduction to Rambling Talk 'Sweat & Tears'	Mr G Williams
Sun 4 Nov 84	Carmarthen Fans	Mike James
Sat 17 Nov 84	Llangennech	Penny Fennell
Sun 2 Dec 84	Carreg Cennen Castle	Gordon Davies
Sun 16 Dec 84	Penmaen to Weobly Castle	Norman Evans
Tues 1 Jan 85	New Year's Day – Clyne Valley	David Fennell
Wed 23 Jan 85	AGM – 7.00 pm YMCA	
Sat 19 Jan 85	Llyn Llech Owen	Tom Nuttall
Sun 3 Feb 85	Pembrey Burrows	Geoff Williams
Sun 17 Feb 85	Kidwelly	Ian McConkey
Sat 2 Mar 85	Kittle – Pwll Du, Gower	Victor Brain
Sun 17 Mar 85	Pontneathfechan	Tony Chin
Sat 30 Mar 95	Morlais - Llangennech	Penny Fennell
Sun 14 Apr 85	Rhandirmwyn	Gordon Davies
Sun 21 Apr 85	Ystrafellte	David Fennell
Sat 27 Apr 85	Stradey Woods, Pwll	Carl Gower

How have members celebrated previous anniversaries?

10th Anniversary - 1994

- Anniversary Dinner at Parc Howard on Friday, 9th September 1994
- St Illtyd's Walk, devised by Colin Davies, was first walked in stages, under his leadership, between 30th April and 4th May 1994. This weekend of walking led to the introduction of the Festival of Walks into the walking programme.
- Furnace Pond and Swiss Valley Walk, the group's 'very first walk', on 1st October 1994

20th Anniversary – 2004

- Anniversary Dinner at the Selwyn Samuel Centre on Friday 17th September 2004
- Furnace Pond and Swiss Valley Walk, the group's 'very first walk', on Saturday 18th September 2004
- Series of walks along the St Illtyd's Walk during the 2004/5 walks programme

25th Anniversary – 2009

- Silver Jubilee Dinner at the King Arthur Hotel on Friday, 23rd October 2009 on the theme of 'past, present and future'

- Carmarthen Fans – the inaugural walk, first walked on Sunday 4th November 1984

Did you know that



- Vic Brain designed the original logo for the group in 1987?
- Pauline Davies designed the current logo for the Festival of Walks in 1995 ?



- There were walks only on a Saturday and Sunday originally?
- The Llanelli Mountaineering Club supported the Llanelli Ramblers when the group was inaugurated in 1984? Tony Chin, Colin Davies, Daphne Davies, Gordon Davies, Phil Rosser and Geoff Williams, members of the Mountaineering Club, were all instrumental in supporting the Ramblers.
- ‘Short local walks’ were introduced into the walks programme during the Summer of 1986? The first Wednesday evening walk was held on 25th June 1986 and Tuesday and Thursday evening walks are recorded in the 1992 walks programme.
- The Monday Club, strictly for the over 60s, was set up by Pauline Davies in March 2003? The group, now known also as the ‘Homers’ and the ‘Roamers’ depending on whether the walkers walk ‘near home’ or ‘roam’ further afield, caters for those for whom the ‘going may have become a little too tough’ but the ‘tough’ continue to ‘get going’!



Homers



Roamers

- Llanelli Ramblers forged a link with the Randonneurs de l’Agenais (from Llanelli’s twin town, Agen) in 2005?



Article from the archives



Visitors from Agen

- The first Festival of Walks, inaugurated by Colin Davies, took place during the weekend of 26th – 29th May 1995? The Festival celebrates its 20th Anniversary in 2015.
- The Llanelli Ramblers have been involved in the ‘Beating of the Bounds’ of Llangennech since its revival in 1990?
- The monthly Tea Walks were introduced in the Summer of 2009?
- The website was up and running by the Spring of 2006, had received more than 3400 hits by mid-March 2007 and more than 5000 hits by the Autumn of 2007?



Brecon



Epynt Way



Flatholm 2014



Llanwrtyd Beer Festival



Santa Trail 2013

Early promotional material found amongst the archives!

