



RAMBLERS' GROUP NEWS – OCTOBER 2016

The 2016 Summer Programme is rapidly coming to an end; during this last quarter there have been some exciting events plus the disappointment of the trip to Lundy being cancelled at the 12th hour due to a mechanical failure on MV Balmoral. On the positive side all walks have been well attended, in particular after a shaky start the Thursday Evening Walks have gone very well.

Pembrey Camp, Over the August Bank Holiday Weekend 29 adults and children camped at Pembrey Country Park in Caravans, Camper Vans and Tents, with many more attending on a daily basis. On the warm and sunny Friday evening Alwyn Williams led 33 walkers on a 3½ mile walk through forestry paths; with ravenous appetites the walkers returned to the camp, where Diana and Jeff Davies, with the help of Andrew Blewett, had prepared a scrumptious BBQ. Saturday also turned out to be a warm and sunny day; whilst Diana and the children went beach combing, Hazel and Ron led 20 adults on a 6 mile walk via Pembrey, where a lunch break at the "Ship Aground" was taken prior to returning to the camp.

Saturday evening saw 35 adults and children enter our annual Poems and Pints competition chaired by Mary Wyatt. Competition winners were, Children: Caitlyn and Charlotte; Best published: Hazel Blewett; Best original funny: Eirwen Stevens and Best Original: Mike Williams with his poem.

The question on everyone's lips

Should rambling be in the Olympics?
It's the question on everyone's lips
"No way" say dissenters, "most ramblers are bionics"
With pacemakers, metal knees and hips.

There'd be no shortage of samples for drug testing,
As every back marker knows!
As soon as you set off rambling
Every bugger drops to the back and goes.

Imagine the pandemonium
The frenzy in the media hub
"Team GB Ramblers to the podium"
Too late they went straight from the walk to the pub.

No. Rambling's not about first to the tape
Though there's challenge and skill for each one
It's more about enjoying the landscape
Fresh air, fitness, friendship and fun.

So who cares we're not in Tokyo competing
Who cares if it's wet and cold
Coz each time you go out rambling
You always win a moment of gold.

The camp woke to a wet and miserable Sunday morning, which was compounded with poor visibility; whilst the children were entertained by Diana in the marquee, Huw led a 9 mile walk over Pembrey Mountain. As the day progressed, so the weather improved, by the late afternoon the sun had again come out.

Sunday Evening we had "Ramblers have Talent" extravaganza. There was a gymnastics demonstration from Bethan, Amelia and Caitlyn, and comedy sketches from Linda and Andrew, and Ron with the children. Finally Hannah and Alex entertained with singing accompanied by their guitars.

Monday, the camp's final full day was taken up by "Everyone is a Winner" children/adult sand castle competition; followed by tea and cakes decorated by the children. To finish the weekend off there was a bonfire on the beach.

Cornwall 2016; Over the week spent down in Cornwall 53 people attended, and an average of 40 walked on each of the 5 days of walking. This trip saw us pass the South West Coast Path half way mark at Porthallow; thus theoretically we have now completed 370 miles of the 630 miles of the S.W.C.P (which in includes the Swanage section that Susan and Robert led in 2009). The weather during the week was in the main kind though not always hot and sunny; thunder storms of extreme magnitude were experienced on Tues/Wed, to the extent that some of the local roads were flooded and prevented travel to the walk that was planned for Wednesday. The holiday ended with an excellent meal at the "Half Way House" Reme.

Golden Wedding Celebration: On 24th September Mary and Jim Buttimore invited Llanelli Ramblers' to join their Golden Wedding Celebration at Cresswell Quay; whilst some members stayed in the area for the weekend the majority travelled by coach to Cresswell Quay. On arrival refreshments were provided, following which Mary and Jim led the party on a circular walk via Lawrenny. The celebration continued with an excellent BBQ plus entertainment from a local singer. Proceeds from the celebration were donated to Burry Port Inshore Lifeboat.

St Illtyd's Way: Following the re-launch in April four subsequent walks have been completed to reach Resolven, the final section to end in Margam Park on 15th July 2017.

Future Events to look out for:

Wales Coast Path: The South Wales section led by Hannah Morgan is nearing completion, with the last two legs Goldcliffe to Caldicot and Coldicot to Chepstow scheduled to be walked over an away weekend of 29th and 30th October.

Offa's Dyke: The remaining sections of the Offa's Dyke project are scheduled for June/July 2017.

Beating the Bounds: Scheduled for 15th October is an ancient custom which is still observed in Llangennech, *Under the name of Gangdays the custom of going a-ganging was kept before the Norman Conquest. A group of old and young members of the community would walk the boundaries of the parish, usually led by the parish priest and church officials to share the knowledge of where they lay and to pray for protection and blessings for the lands.* Those who attend can enjoy refreshments at Llangennech Community Centre.

Moonlight Walk: To be held on Thursday 3rd November at Pembrey Country Park and led by Alwyn Williams. This is a walk in the dark, bring a torch so that you can see who else is walking.

Annual General Meeting: To be held on Tuesday 8th November 2016 at 7.00pm at Lliedi Suite Selwyn Samuel Centre Llanelli. Each year at the AGM all positions on the committee are open for election.

Remembrance Day Walk: Alwyn Williams will again be leading this annual walk on Sunday 13th November to the Wellington Bomber memorial site on Carreg Coch; this is at most a C+ walk of 6 miles which is well within the capability of the majority of our walkers.

Llangrannog Weekend: 18th to 20th November is on schedule and fully subscribed.

Festival of Walks 2017: Planning is well in hand, walks have been penciled in and leaders identified.

Heart of Wales Line Railway Trail – Long Distance Path: The concept of a long distance path from Craven Arms to Llanelli has been initiated by Heart of Wales Line Travellers Association for the purpose of developing tourism and business along the line and improve traffic on the railway. From an initial approach in March things have moved rapidly. The provisional route being sketched/recce'd has involved several members of Llanelli Ramblers; in particular there has been a suggestion of a variant on the western side of the Loughor River which more closely follows the existing railway and passes through Llangennech and Bynea en-route to Llanelli. The Heart of Wales Line Travellers Association have

now established a working group to progress both the substantive route and various extensions and variants. **Watch this Space.**

Big Welsh Walk 2017:The theme for 2017 Big Welsh Walk is the hit drama series “Y Gwyll” the English version being “Hinterland” which is set in and around Aberystwyth. Discussions with our Lampeter friends are taking place about further joint walks in Ceredigion, possibly at Easter or the May Day Bank Holiday weekend.

Agen visit: Plans are in progress for Llanelli Ramblers’ visit to Agen in late September 2017.

Monday Walking Groups - Homers and Roamers: Both groups remain very active and retain their ethos of flat walks on good surfaces and no stiles.

Roamers: Meet on Mondays at their programme instructions time.
Further information: David Quarmby on 01656 716341

Homers: Meet on Mondays at 10.00am at Festival Fields, Llanelli.
Further information: Eileen Beaumont on 01554-741306

Social Events: Our Winter programme is packed full with Social Events; the first of which is on Friday 14th October 2016 7.30pm at Selwyn Samuel Centre : A walk through History – Slide Show and talk by Brian Davies. **See Winter Social Programme for all other Events.**