



RAMBLERS' GROUP NEWS – JANUARY 2017

The last quarter has continued to be busy with both walking and other activities: Our AGM was held on the 8th November 2016 at the Selwyn Samuel Centre; the meeting was well attended, with 42 members taking part in lively discussion.

There were resignations from Robert Davies – Chairperson, Robert O'Dell – Membership Secretary, Margaret Brinley – Social Committee Secretary and John Maudsley – Programme Secretary.

We thank them for all their good work.

The new elected committee for 2016/2017 are as follows:

Chairperson – John Clement.
Vice Chairperson – Clive Boyles
Secretary – John Cook
Programme Secretary – Susan Roberts
Minute Secretary – Eirwen Stephens
Treasurer – David Clementson
Social Secretary – Pat Pope
Publicity Secretary – Monica Rees
Newsletter Editor – Huw Francis
Footpaths Officer – Paul Barrett
Membership Secretary – Bernard Dezelu
Web Secretary – Nina Clements
Monday Homers – Eileen Beaumont
Monday Roamers – David Quarnby

The AGM ended with a finger buffet.

Reports of Events

Llangrannog Weekend 18th to 20th November 2016: Led by Janet and Robert Davies 32 members enjoyed a brilliant weekend at the Urdd Site in Llangrannog.

Following our evening meal on **Friday** the group was split into four teams for an Archery Competition. As the majority had never used a competition bow before the Urdd Staff give

instructions and a three arrow try. Each member of the four teams fired three arrows each with the eventual winners being Ann Maudsley's Team (Scarlet Arrows) winning the day.

Saturday: There was a choice of two walks, both starting from Mwnt, to which we were transported by coach. The shorter walk at 5 miles ended at Aberporth where transport was arranged to take the short walk participants back to the Urdd ; participants on the longer walk of 10½ miles ended at Llangrannog Village and again there was arranged transport to go back to the Urdd.

After our evening meal on Saturday Evening the group engaged in a skill competition organized by Hazel Blewett – In five teams of six, judged by Hazel Blewett and Ron Morgan, each team had to: Build a bridge out of drink straws that was strong enough to support a full 500ml can of beer. Make a paper kettle that could be filled with and boil water. Identify locations and objects on an OS Map via their grid reference. The winning team was captained by John Clements.

Sunday: Again there was a choice of two walks, a 5mile linear walk from Cwm Tydi to the Urdd; and an 8½mile linear walk from New Quay to the Urdd.

The weekend though overcast at times proved to be dry, thus completing a very enjoyable weekend.

Moonlight Walk: Thursday 3rd November: On an overcast gloomy evening 21 walkers met outside Pembrey Country Park for a 3mile walk led by Alwyn Williams, torches reflected the eyes of the inquisitive creature who peeped out at us from the forest. Sadly the moon did not appear and it was not until the group retired to the Red Lion for well earned refreshments that the attendees were identified.

Remembrance Sunday 13th November: At 9am Alwyn Williams led 33 Llanelli Ramblers on their annual pilgrimage to the Wellington Bomber Crash Site Memorial on Careg Coch. At the site they were joined by Tawe Treckers and Swansea Ramblers for a Service of Remembrance. Some 80 or so listened to Roger Rees read the Poem "Flanders Field" followed by the laying of a wreath, two minutes silence and concluding with the singing of the hymn "Abide With Me". Post service donations to the value of £53 was collected for the British Legion.

Social Events: The Social Calendar commenced on Friday 14th October 2016 with an excellent talk given by Mr Brian Davies "Brecon to Harlech Walk through History" which was a continuation of the talk " Flat Holm to Brecon Walk through History" that Brian Davies give in our 2015/2016 Social Calendar.

Saturday 5th November 2016 saw a change in tack; a "Music Night" with the exceptional talent of vocalist and guitarist Chris Rees who presented an excellent programme of Country

and Western songs and music. As the event was held at the Catholic Hall Llanelli, we were able to self cater in terms of supplying our own drinks and shared food.

Wednesday 7th December 2016: We had our Christmas Lunch at Ashburnham Hotel; 74 Llanelli Ramblers and friends attended an excellent lunch which was punctuated with Christmas Carols and story telling.

Thursday 15th December 2016 a Christmas Quiz was held at the Private Greens Bowls Club. As well as a quiz there was a Christmas Jumper competition which was won by Monica Rees.

On a very cold Thursday 12th January 2017; there was a return to the excellent venue of “Llanelli Private Greens Bowls Club” for a Carolyne and Hywel organized Beetle Drive. Part way through this very competitive competition there was a power cut, which sadly culminated in No lights, No heat thus end of Beetle Drive. Many of the attendees retired next door to the Thomas Arms.

Santa Trail: On a very bright, still and dry 28th December 2016 day, 37 adults and 14 children enjoyed the annual Santa Trail with the children leading the walk following the 80 Santa’s that marked the way; the children marking off the Santa’s names on their check list as they found them. The trail led to the Ski Slope where everyone who took part was served with light refreshments by Mr & Mrs Santa, Jeff and Diana. Following refreshments the children enjoyed free Toboggan Rides.

Air Ambulance Donation: During December donations in lieu of giving each Christmas Cards was collected; to a total of £411. To complement the collection of lieu cards on Boxing Day the Walrus Dip Team once again braved the elements via a 10 minute walk to the sea. In doing so they collected sponsorship to the value of £110 which has been added to the Christmas Card donations thus the total donated to Wales Air Ambulance = **£521.00**

Looking Ahead: As we look ahead into 2017 our full Walking and Social Programme will hopefully continue.

Walking Events:

Offa’s Dyke Weekend-Friday 31st March to 2nd April- led by Ian and Peter. Based in Oswestry this is the penultimate weekend of walking Offa’s Dyke project.

Crickhowell Weekend- 8th/9th April -, two walks each day; one short led by Hazel and one long led by Jeff. There is the option of staying over for the weekend, camping/B&B or travel each day. Details to follow from Hazel/Jeff.

Festival of Walks – 26th to 29th May – Brochures are currently being printed and will offer a fantastic programme of five walks each day; ranging from challenging to easy family walks. The weekend will start with our Friday Evening Get Together and end with a traditional Welsh Tea.

South West Coast Path -9th to 16th September – Staying near St Austell our walking of the 630 miles of SWCP continues. For further information contact Adrienne/Huw - 01554751777

Heart of Wales Line Trail (HOWLT)

"The Heart of Wales Line Trail (HOWLT) continues to move forward, most recently, with the media launch of the crowd-funding appeal on 16th January. The appeal is designed to supplement initial funding for the project, from organisations like Arriva Trains Wales, with monies donated by members of the public.

HOWLT received good regional radio and television coverage and features are booked to appear in forthcoming editions of popular walking magazines like : The Great Outdoors and our own Walk to name just a couple.

Donating aside, there are many other ways of getting involved in this exciting project to create a new long-distance footpath in Wales from Craven Arms to Llanelli - a route which mirrors the HOWL railway. For instance, several members of Llanelli Ramblers were involved in the project's earlier stages, by test-driving and amending the planned route.

In the very near future, as the Spring opening date for the first sections of the path approaches, volunteers will be needed to affix the trail's logo to existing way markers along the route. **Watch this space.**

Future Social & Walking Events –

Darts Night at Steboneath Social Club – 9th February - £5 per person including a buffet.

Twmpath with traditional Fish and Chips: 25th February £7.50 per person, bring your own liquid refreshments and Dance Shoes.

Cawl Walk in Pembrey Country Park – 1st March

August Bank Holiday Camp – 26th to 29th August

Cornwall Holiday – South West Coast Path – 9th to 16th September – Based near St Austell, Continue our project of walking the 630 miles of SWCP. – Contact Adrienne and Huw for further Details.

Agen Visit – 21st to 28th September.
