



Ramblers' Group News – April 2017

Overview

The Wednesday Walks over the last quarter have continued to be well supported with an average of 40+ on each of the walks, whilst the weekend walks have averaged 18 to 20 on each walk. Plus we have enjoyed a well-supported social programme.

Social Events:

The Annual Dinner Dance: at the Ashburnham Hotel was attended by 28 members, though this number was comparatively low the evening still proved to be very enjoyable.

Darts Trophy Night: at Stebonheath Football Social Club had an attendance of 56 members who were split up into 14 teams of four. The quality of competition was of a world class standard, and gave a hard fight to the eventual finalists of Ann's Arrows and Carrie's Comets who fought a hard final with the Comets narrowly taking the honours.

Twmpath: held on 25th February 2017 at the Catholic Hall Llanelli with a Fish and Chip Buffet and men's cake making competition. Following an initial round of dancing, supplemented by Fish and Chips washed down by self-supplied beverages the cake competition had eight entrants offering a broad range of baked items; the guest judges of Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood tested and tasted each offering, passing constructive and sometimes destructive comments and advice. After much deliberation Andrew Blewett's Millionaires' Shortbread was declared the winner. Andrew was presented with first prize "A Mary Berry Cook Book" by the competition organisers: Monica Rees and Jeff Davies. The evening ended with further rounds of Welsh Folk Dancing.

St David's Day Cawl Walk: Alwyn Williams and Elaine Thomas led a five mile C grade walk at Pembrey Country Park on a sunny spring day. The walk was attended by 68 walkers who followed Alwyn on a meandering route around the park; concluding at the catering marquee where Cawl, Cheese, Bread and Welsh Cakes awaited the famished walkers. Retirement for further refreshment was to the Red Lion Pembrey.

Skittles: Held at the Poachers Rest in Ferry Side teams of four battled for the "Llanelli Skittles Trophy" interjected by copious helpings of Curry Rice and Chips; the event turned out to be a very close encounter with play offs having to be injected into the event to even reach the Semi-Finals. The cup was eventually won by "Keith's Krankies".

Six Nations Championship 2017 – Wednesday Walkers Result Prediction Sweep: For the third year running Kevin Hewitt organised the sweep. Strangely the results mirrored the championship result – 1st David Clementson- English, 2nd Bernard – French, 3rd Colin – Welsh.

Looking Ahead:

Summer Programme: Susan Roberts, our new Programme Secretary is currently finalising the 2017 Summer Programme. At this time the Wednesday Programme has filled very nicely, with only a few vacant spaces left, mainly in October. The Weekend Programme still has a number of spaces on Sundays whilst the Saturday dates are reasonably full. The Thursday Evening Programme still shows a number of vacancies.

The Thursday Evening walks at 3 to 4 miles are an excellent entry starter for anyone who wishes to take up walking as a leisure activity but views the weekend and mid- weeks walks as too long.

Walking Events:

Offa's Dyke Walk- The ultimate three days for walking Offa's Dyke are scheduled for 30th June to 2nd July 2017 - based at Denbigh. For further info contact Peter/Ian.

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 have now been printed and circulated. There is 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. Please book ASAP, as some of the walks are already starting to fill up.

August Bank Holiday Camp – 26th to 29th August 2017: In spite of some initial hesitancy, the camping weekend at Pembrey Country Park now has the green light. Our location in the park is changed and we will now be camping in the Archery Area; which is not too far from the Ski Slope. Though the event is labelled as a camping weekend, all are welcome on a daily basis to participate in walks, children's entertainment, BBQ, Poems and Pints etc etc. A more detailed itinerary will be available nearer the date.

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) How Can You Help?

Although there is still no official opening date yet for the northern (Shropshire) end of the trail, progress continues to be made elsewhere. Meetings have been held with all four county councils along the route and some remedial maintenance work has already taken place.

Now volunteers are needed to walk the route and report on how maintenance upgrades are progressing. Volunteers are also needed to work with the local councils' rights-of-way teams to affix the logos/roundels along sections of the route. For us, that means the sections from Llandeilo to Llanelli via Ammanford and Pontarddulais. If you are interested contact: **John Maudsley 01792-298354** for route maps and route descriptions/directions.

Last, but not least, as more and more walkers get to hear about the project, contributions to the fund raising appeal are being made, but organisers report that with 20 days left to go some £5,000 short of the target. Every little bit helps if you want this project to become a reality. <http://www.heart-of-wales.co.uk/trail.htm>

Agen Visit – 21st to 28th September 2017: Planning and Bookings are now in place with 24 persons now scheduled to make the trip to Agen.

Snippits: If you purchase your walking equipment from Cotswolds and you are registered with their loyalty card, in the event of you having a defect with your equipment, then you will be covered for two years instead of the normal one.