



Ramblers' Group News Letter - October 2017

Our Walks Programme for summer 2017 is rapidly coming to an end. Over the period; our weekly Monday, Tuesday Tea Walks, Wednesday, Thursday Evening and Weekend walks have all been well supported; in particular the inclusion of a shorter walk on the weekend has proved to be popular and has encouraged those members who particularly like walks in the length bracket of seven to eight miles to walk at the weekend. In addition, the numbers attending the Thursday Evening Walks have consistently been in the higher teens.

Events

St Illtyd's Way: 15th July 2017 saw the culmination of the joint group project to walk the seventh and final leg of St Illtyd's way. Attendances during the project were excellent; it would be nice if another joint group long distance walk project could be arranged.

Annual Pembrey Camp – 25th to 29th August 2017: This year the location of the camp was changed from the main camping field to the more secluded and private Archery field. This change of location together with magnificent weather proved to be the catalyst for a very, very successful weekend.

The weekend commenced on **Friday** with camping members arriving and setting up their tents/mobile homes/touring caravans. Already set up was a gigantic marquee complex provided by Jeff Davies and Andrew Blewitt.

Early evening; the duo of Alwyn Williams and Elaine Jenkins led 48 walkers on a three mile walk through the country park forest and beach. On completion of the walk 60 members were treated to a magnificent BBQ prepared by Jeff and Diana Davies and Andrew Blewitt.

Saturday: Diana Davies took the children on a beach combing expedition, collecting shells plus other forms of flotsam and jetsam which was then used by the children to create a collage garden back at the campsite. Meanwhile Hazel and Ron led a group of adult walkers on a five mile circular walk via Pembrey village for a pub picnic lunch.

Saturday Evening in the marquee was a Poems and Pints Night. Prior to the commencement of the poetry, all were treated to an excellent curry prepared by the camp's resident chefs, Diana, Jeff and Andrew.

With everyone well fed and sated, Mary explained that there would be three categories: Children, Adults - Self Written and Adult – Published. Selection of the winner would be via Secret Ballot.

The Children's Winner was: Charlotte who read the poem "Witch Witch"

The Adult – Published Poem Winner was: Hazel Blewitt

The Adult - Self Written Poem ended in a draw with both Kath Lewis and Eirwen Stephens producing excellent poems.

Of the two self-written winners, at the time of going to press only Eirwen's poem has been made available for publication as follows:

A Leader's Lot. By Eirwen Stephens

I received an email the other day
From our friend called Sue,
Have you got a Wednesday walk
The next programme is now due?

I told myself don't panic,
There is no need to flap
Go upstairs, open the drawer
And take out the OS map.

The Ramblers Roadshow told me
What all the symbols mean
I can now distinguish
A hill from a village green.

I can read the lines and dashes
And detect official paths
I can even measure distance,
By working out the maths.

So I looked for something local
With a car park that was free
An easy six mile walk
With a moderate grade of C
Do we have to pass those cows?
Well, the arrow says we do
The stile is in that corner
We'll have to walk on through

Ah, this place is good for lunch
Look at the gorgeous view!
Such decisions were agreed
Among the female crew.
Just one last thing to find
To satisfy the group,
Where all our rambles end,
A nice and cosy pub

I'll have to do a recce
Let's summon up my team
Ladies can you help me
Discover field and stream?

Audrey, Sue and Rolo
Marilyn, Judy and Ann
Set off one Tuesday morning
To follow my great plan.

The sun was shining brightly
On a lovely summer's day
As we set off round the lake
And down the Gower Way.

The hills were so inviting
We climbed them with no fuss
But the grade I'd have to change
To a definite C plus!
Billy Goats came to meet us
But why the sudden frown?
We're going the wrong way,
As the map is upside down!

So now I am a leader,
I know there's much to do,
To bring all things together
And provide a walk for you.

Finally the walk day dawns,
It's pouring down with rain,
But that's the leaders lot
And yes, I'll do it all again!

On the Saturday 26th August; Sonia and Geoff Thomas celebrated their **Golden Wedding Anniversary**. In a tribute to Sonia, Geoff entered the following, self-written poem, into the Poem and Pints competition.

Ode to 50 years Today by Geoff Thomas

<p>It's 50 years ago today We tied the knot what may It's 50 years of passage of time It's 50 years mostly fine</p> <p>Through this time that I reflect So pleased of my partner I did select I wonder are her thoughts the same I wonder am I her secret flame</p> <p>Those halcyon ways of youthful desire Two fine sons did we sire Not always sunshine and honey A period of time with little money.</p>	<p>Obstacles on the way we did overcome For these two boys a super mum They grow up and produce their offspring Becoming grandparents pleasures bring</p> <p>The clock has ticked, the time has passed. This joyous life we have to last I look upon my friends gathered With some I have been pretty lathered.</p> <p>I now conclude this verse and prose. A kiss is needed from my lovely rose. Many miles we have to pedal With my soulmate who deserves a medal.</p>
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Sunday morning, a more gentle day, provided a lie in for the majority of the campers; whilst the hardy few met up with 10 other ramblers in Kidwelly, led by Huw, they managed an eight mile grade C+ walk to Ferryside and caught a train back to Kidwelly. Meanwhile the children led by Diana went on a nature trail in Pembrey Forest.

Traditionally Sunday evening is "Ramblers have Talent Night". Yet again the audience was not disappointed with a depth of talent presented by the young and somewhat older Ramblers.

Monday on the beach for a Sand Castle Competition; such was the spread of the excellent and imaginative design skills of the competitors that every competitor had a first prize, including Ron Morgan for his Beach Combing skills.

The last event of the weekend was Fish & Chips with singing around the camp fire under a star studded sky.

Cornwall Holiday -9th to 16th September 2017 – 38 Llanelli Ramblers made the 242mile journey to "London Apprentice" near St Austell Cornwall where the majority stayed at the River Valley Holiday Park for a holiday with walks. During the week, over five days of walking, the group walked from Portcutho to Fowey; a distance of 45 miles along the SWCP. As in previous years with linear walks, the shuttling of cars, travelling along lanes so narrow that car wing mirrors were touching the hedges on both sides, was orchestrated by Adrian Dennis ably supported by John Evans. The weather during the week proved to be changeable with some periods of rain; luckily all of the walks finished with dry conditions. The week ended with an excellent meal at the "Ship Inn" Pentewan.

Agen Twinning – 21st to 28th September 2017: On Thursday 21st September 20 Llanelli Ramblers had an early start to travel to Bristol Airport for their flight to Toulouse. In Toulouse they were joined by Pat Arlette who had flown in from Gatwick. At Toulouse the group joined the coach along with 21 Les Randonneurs de l'Agenais already on board, having travelled from Agen to meet Llanelli Ramblers at Toulouse.

With now 42 on board the combined group travelled to Argeles on the Cote Vermeille (Vermilion Coast), for our three night stay at the Azureva holiday complex.

Friday 22nd our coach took us to the coastal town of Banyuls-sur-Mer from where the group was led by Sylvette Banel on a seven mile grade B walk in sunny and hot weather to the view point of the Madeloc Tower. On the return route the group stopped off at the Knights Templar winery for an entertaining wine tasting session.

Saturday 23rd -another hot and sunny day; the group was led again by Sylvette Banel on a seven mile grade C+ coastal walk from Port Vendres Bay; en route visiting the Cap Bear pink marble light house.

Sunday 24th -the group departed for Agen; firstly stopping for a morning's visit at the attractive coastal village of Collioure. En route to Agen the group had a quick stop on the Carcassonne Motorway, which gave the opportunity to admire the medieval city of Carcassonne.

Monday 25th -the group travelled by cars to the nearby village of Moirax, where Sylvette Banel led a seven mile grade C walk. The picnic lunch of baguette and water was enriched by our hosts with wine and all other sorts of delicious nibbles, turning a run of the mill picnic into an awesome one.

Tuesday 26th -the walk started from Agen railway station and was led by John Pierre Hilaire on an eight mile grade C walk on the Ermitage Hillside above Agen. Again the group was entertained to an awesome picnic lunch.

Tuesday evening -the group attended a reception at the Town Hall followed by a mini concert by Christian Moulie and Jean-Michel Martinez who played an Oxidon version of the bagpipes.

Wednesday 27th -John Pierre Hilaire led a four mile grade D cultural walk around Agen; followed by free time to explore independently.

Wednesday evening; the group were entertained to a splendid farewell dinner, during which Llanelli Ramblers sang welsh ballads whilst enrobed in various versions of welsh costumes; Les Randonneurs de l' Agenais concluded the evening by singing the Oxidon National Anthem.

Thursday 28th -Llanelli Ramblers say farewell to their hosts, thanking them for a brilliant week's exchange and look forward to seeing them in Llanelli in 2019. Special thanks to Greison and his team for organising such a memorable holiday.

Looking Ahead

AGM – Our Annual General meeting is scheduled to take place at the Selwyn Samuel Centre on Tuesday 7th November 2017 at 7.30pm. Please come along as this an opportunity to air your views and select your 2017/2018 committee. All positions on the committee are open for election. A small buffet is organised for the end of the meeting.

Social Events – During the winter programme there are a series of social events which are highlighted in the programme. The first of which is on **Thursday 12th October** at Selwyn Samuel Centre starting at 7.30pm – Talk and Slides “Harlech to Anglesey” given by Brian Davies.

On **11th November** there is a musical evening with Chris Rees. Ticket £5. Bring your own nibbles and drinks. Contact Monica for details of both these events.

Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 6th December at Ashburnham Hotel for 1pm.

Walking Events and Breaks: During the winter programme and 2018 summer programme, there are a number of planned Walking Events and Breaks.

Llangrannog Weekend – 13th to 15th April 2018 – Contact Janet and Robert Davies for details.

Two Moors Way – A 120 mile long-distance path, walking across Devon from Lynmouth to Plymouth. This will entail two long weekends in 2018 followed by two more in 2019. The first of which is likely to be in June 2018 followed by the second sometime in September/October 2018 – Contact Ian and Peter for details.

Festival of Walks – 25th to 28th May 2018 – Plans are well underway, with walks and leaders selected. The theme for 2018 is “Seas”.

Wales Coast Path – Hannah, Jeff and Diana have plans to continue their project of walking another section of the WCP. This time it is planned to walk over a week's vacation, probably sometime in June 2018.

Crickhowell Weekend – Another weekend of walks for 2018, (scheduled for 28th/29th April 2018) are being planned by Jeff, Diana and Hazel.

Croatia Holiday: Monica intends to offer another holiday in Croatia – Dates are yet to be confirmed.

Cornwall Week: The project of walking the South West Coast Path continues, with a week based at Looe planned for 8th to 15th September 2018.

Homers and Roamers continue to go from strength to strength; each section has its own Three Monthly programme of walks which can be found on our website. In addition, the Roamers are planning another holiday walking the Llangollen Canal.

And finally.....

Our committee has streamlined our email system. The email addresses for members are maintained centrally by our Membership Secretary, Bernard Dezelu. Bernard wishes to be informed whenever members change their email addresses, so that he can update our database. (bernarddezelu@btinternet.com)

Any matters concerning our walks programme, are maintained by Susan Roberts. (walksprogramme@aol.com)

Sweeping up at the rear for all other matters, is our Secretary, John Cook. (llanelli_ramblers@hotmail.co.uk)