



RAMBLERS' GROUP NEWS – JANUARY 2016

Overview As we are well aware, October, November, December and January have been very wet; as far as our walk's programme is concerned we are up there with a frequency of rain of the 85 consecutive days of rain that Eglwysrwrw has experienced. In spite of consistent days of rainfall, all walks have gone ahead as planned, though numbers have been down on some of the very wet days.

Moonlight Walk: For the first time in a few years a moonlight walk was put on the programme; led by Alwyn 29 walkers did a three mile walk on a dry late October evening in Pembrey Country Park; on cue the moon appeared towards the end of the walk. The evening turned out to be a resounding success, even though many did not know who was on the walk until they congregated in the Red Lion.

AGM Our Annual General Meeting took place at the Halfway Hotel on Tuesday 3rd November 2015. The meeting opened with Chairman John Cook giving his annual report, in which he confirmed that he was standing down as chairman, together with our secretary Heather Stretch; footpath officer Jeff Davies; and publicity secretary Eileen Beaumont also John Maudsley confirmed that he would be standing down as walks programme secretary at the end of 2015/2016.

The new committee was duly elected as follows: Chairman – Robert Davies; Vice Chairman - Clive Boyle; Secretary – John Cook; Minute Sec – Eirwen Stephens; Walks Programme Secretary – John Maudsley; Treasurer- David Clementson; Membership Secretary – Robert O'Dell; Social Secretary – Margaret Brindley; Publicity Officer – Monica Rees; Newsletter Editor – Huw Francis; Monday Roamer's Secretary – David Quarmbly; Monday Homer's Secretary – Eileen Beaumont; Web Secretary – Nina Clements. The position of Footpath Officer remained vacant; **thus a volunteer is still required for this position.** On closure of the AGM the attendees were in receipt of a buffet.

Remembrance Sunday: 16 Llanelli Ramblers led by Alwyn Williams made the annual pilgrimage to the Wellington Bomber Site in the Brecon Beacons. The weather though pleasant to start went downhill rapidly once the valley was left; heavy rain and poor visibility were the order of the day, possibly reminiscent of that fateful day in November 1944 when the Wellington Bomber crashed into Carreg Coch. Refreshments were taken at the end of the walk at the "Ancient Briton".

Christmas Lunch: The Christmas lunch held at the Stradey Park Hotel again proved to be very successful. Attended by 74 ramblers who enjoyed an excellent meal and companionship which concluded with the singing of Christmas Carols under the leadership of Alwyn Williams.

Santa Trail: The Christmas period continued to experience heavy rain; this remained the case early on Wednesday 30th December 2015 when the rain lashed down, combining with very strong winds had the knock on effect of reducing the walk attendance number who braved the elements to 14. As frequently happens the weather on the walk turned out to be lot better than had been predicted. Diana and Jeff's post walk nibbles of mince pies, hot orange/ mulled wine was served courtesy of Dianne at her premises.

Air Ambulance: Donations in lieu of giving each other Christmas Cards plus Walrus Dip Sponsorship raised £478.50

Social Evenings: The social evenings to date have again been very entertaining:

October – Beatle Drive organized by Carolyn and Hywel- a very competitive competition.

November – A change of direction and venue – A dance tuition night at the catholic hall including self-provision of refreshments.

December – Santiago de Compostela – A excellent presentation of Diana and Jeff's gruelling 562mile pilgrimage walk, from St Jean-Pied-de-Port in France via Santiago de Compostela to Finisterre supported by a diet of pain killers.

January - Presentation by Brian Davies of a long distance walk – Flat Holm to Brecon with interesting anecdotes and old photographs of industrial South Wales.

Looking Ahead

The **Social Programme** continues into February, March and April offering a varied range of activities; including a presentation on The Cambrian Way, Darts Night, Skittles Night & Twmpath.

Walking Highlights and Away Venues:

St David's Day Walk – Wednesday 2nd March 2016- 6 miles D. Followed by Cawl provided by Jeff and Diana.

Wales Coast Path: Led by Hannah Morgan has now reached Aberavon. The next section is on 6th February between Aberavon and Rest Bay Porthcawl.

Crickhowell Weekend: 2nd & 3rd April 2016. On each of the days there will be two walks on offer, a long walk led by Jeff and Diana and a short walk led by Hazel. The weekend offers the option of either staying in Crickhowell (camping or a B&B) or travelling each day. For further details contact: Hazel on 01554755331 or Diana/Jeff on 01554833099

Offa's Dyke Weekend: 23rd & 24th April 2016. Peter and Ian's Offa's Dyke project is now approaching Knighton. Based in Knighton, the weekend offers magnificent views along this central section of Offa's Dyke. For further detail's contact: Peter/Ian on 01554741480 or 01554778870

Festival of Walks: The theme of the Festival of walks, 27th to 30th May 2016, will be "**The Valleys**" with exciting walks in the Rhondda and Cothi valleys, coupled with Pembrokeshire and favorite walks locally to please all tastes.

The **Big Welsh Walk** that has been traditionally taking place in early May will now be merged with the Festival's Monday Family Walk and will take the form of an easy walk along St Illtyd's Way; with the theme of the walks being the Roald Dahl centenary (Pirates or Hatchet Men).

The Friday opening will be held at the Selwyn Samuel Centre, while the Welsh Tea will be held in the Catholic Hall. No Sunday Party this year due to the poor take-up in 2015 Festival.

Cornwall Holiday: Adrienne and Huw are offering a week's holiday in Cornwall with optional walks for the period 10th to 17th September 2016. Based at "Retanna Holiday Park" sited between Falmouth and Helford. The programme is to continue walking the South West Coast Path between Coverack and Portloe. For further details contact Adrienne/Huw on: 01554751777.

Llangrannog Weekend: Following last year's very successful weekend at the Urdd Centre in Llangrannog, Janet and Robert have arranged a return weekend 18th to 20th November 2016. At this time all availability has been taken up; should anyone be still interested then there is a reserve list. Bearing in mind that the weekend is 10 months away, there is always the possibility that there will be cancellations. For information contact Janet/Robert on: 01554753596.

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 Monday's at their programme instructions time.

Further information: David Quarmby on 01792-904133

Homers: Meet on Mondays at 10.30am at the Llanelli Leisure Centre.

Further information: Eileen Beaumont on 01554-741306

Other issues:

Walk leaders are reminded that they can claim recce expenses; currently paid at 28p per mile up to a maximum of 120 miles, thereafter the fuel expense or value of 120 miles at the pence per mile allowance can be claimed – Whichever is the greater.

Ramblers' Membership Card: It is worth noting that our Ramblers' Membership Card can be used to obtain a discount at all of the local outdoor shops: Millets, Trespass, Cotswold, Mountain Warehouse, Go Outdoors (at Go Outdoors, who have their own discount card you can have an additional 10% via your membership card). Caravan Club Membership cards are also accepted for discount.