



## RAMBLERS' GROUP NEWS - JANUARY 2015

### Current Programme Reports:

#### 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

We launched the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the group with a lovely evening at Machynys Golf Club on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2014. 97 members attended the dinner and many commented positively on the environment, the quality of the food and the service provided by the staff at Machynys. Guests of honour were Audrey Davies together with members of her family and Nia Griffiths MP for Llanelli.

The following morning 66 members assembled at Llanelli Leisure Centre to begin the Anniversary Walk, designed by Colin Davies.

**Walk 1** the first part of the 30 mile walk, took us through the grounds of Stradey Castle *en route* to Furnace Pond and Swiss Valley. Walks of different lengths were available (4,6,7.5 and 10 mile), with all but the 4 mile walk incorporating the inaugural walk of the group back in 1984. Refreshments were served in the Dining Room at Stradey Castle, after which walkers went their different ways on their chosen walk. Many walkers commented positively on the setting chosen for refreshments and on the lively and friendly atmosphere throughout. It was generally agreed that this was a fitting start to the celebrations.

**Walk 2** from Felinfoel to Bynea or Penclacwydd, took place on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2014. A 7 mile and a 10 mile walk were available – 21 walkers chose the 7 mile and 18 the 10 mile walk. Once again members commented on how they had enjoyed the day, which was helped by the weather being sunny, dry and warm – a bonus for the time of the year.

**Our Annual Remembrance Sunday Walk** took place on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2014. Led by Alwyn Williams members of Llanelli Ramblers plus walkers from other groups made the 6 mile round trip pilgrimage to the Wellington Bomber Memorial Site on Carreg Coch. At the site the congregation swelled to at least 100 for the service of remembrance at 11am.

**Our Annual General Meeting:** held at the Halfway Hotel on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2014 was well attended. The meeting reported that Llanelli Ramblers is in good shape in terms of membership (292) positive balance sheets for both the General and Festival of Walks accounts, an excellent walks programme that is blessed with many new leaders; plus a varied social programme.

Elected Committee Members for 2014/2015 are:

**John Cook** – Chairman.

**Robert Davies** – Vice Chairman.

**Heather Stretch** – Secretary

**David Clementson** – Treasurer

**Robert O'Dell** – Membership Secretary

**John Maudsley** – Walks and Programme  
Secretary

**David Quarnby** – Roamers Representative

**Eileen Beaumont** – Homers Representative and  
Publicity Officer.

**Nina Clement** – Web Secretary

**Jeff Davies** – Footpaths Officer.

**Huw Francis** – Newsletter Editor

**Pat Pope** – Member

**Social Secretary** – Position left vacant – Sub-Committee to be formed to fill the position.

**Annual Christmas Lunch** was again held at the Stradey Park Hotel on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014. The lunch was attended by 71 members for an enjoyable meal in excellent company.

**Donation to Air Ambulance in Lieu of Christmas Cards:** In lieu of giving each other Christmas Cards £293.65 has been raised for donation to Wales Air Ambulance

**The Walrus Dip** – Has been included in our walking programme for the last few years as a sponsored event to raise money for good causes. Nine brave souls (Will, Alwyn, Elaine, Diana, Jeff, Tom, Andrew, Linda and Huw) on a damp and windy day entered a very cold sea at Pembrey Sands followed by even colder changing facilities in the car park. Their efforts raised £139.10 for Wales Air Ambulance.

**Total raised for Wales Air Ambulance = £432.75.**

**Santa Trail:** Alwyn Williams led 13 children plus 34 adults on a five mile walk on a bright winter day through Pembrey Country Park. The walk ended at the old visitors centre where the walkers were revived with copious amounts of biscuits and cakes, washed down by lashings of hot orange for the children and mulled wine for the adults; all served by Mother and Father Christmas (Diana and Jeff). The day ended with the children being treated to a toboggan ride.

**Wedding Bells:** Congratulations to Diana and Jeff on their marriage at St Mary's Church Burry Port on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2015. The service was attended by a supporting cast of Llanelli Ramblers who formed a walking pole archway for the happy couple as they exited the church. Following day and evening receptions at the Ashburnham Hotel the couple honeymooned in London.

**Social Evenings:** This winter's social evenings have again proved to be well attended and very successful; consisting of a Beetle Drive hosted by Carolyn and Hywel, slides and presentation of Hadrian's Wall long distance path hosted by Diana, Ann M, John M and Jeff. Bring and Buy with a twist hosted by Margaret and Eileen. A different event this season hosted by Audrey and Clive was a Skittles evening at the Poacher's Rest Ferryside; 56 people attended and were split up into eight teams who played each other on a knock out basis; after a strongly contested final "Rob's Rockets" overcame the tenacious efforts of Daphne's Dynamos. The Rockets received the winner's trophy with much gusto from the other teams. The next social evening is on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at 7.30pm in the Halfway Hotel – Quiz hosted by Christine Worth

### **Looking Ahead**

Looking ahead to the rest of this current winter programme and beyond, there are many exciting things to look forward to, both social and walking.

**Twmpath Dawns:** Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at the Catholic Hall Llanelli; an evening of welsh folk dancing plus an interlude meal of fish and chips. Bring your own liquid

refreshments, drinking vessels and cutlery. Tickets cost £7.50 and can be purchased from Monica, Hazel or Adrienne.

**30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** continues with: **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015** – two linear walks – 6 miles grade D Penclacwydd to Pwll park at Pwll or 10 miles grade C Bynea Gate to Burry Port park at Burry Port. Bus from both Pwll and Burry Port to the starts of the walks – cost £1.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2015** – one linear walk – 6 miles grade C Pwll to Penybedd  
Bus from Penybedd to Pwll – cost £1.

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2015** – two walks, one linear – 6 miles grade C Penybedd to Stradey Castle bus from Stradey Castle to Penybedd– cost £1. The other walk is a 10 miles grade C+ Burry Port circular via Pembrey Country Park, Penybedd, Pembrey Mountain and back to Burry Port.- park at Burry Port. Following both walks there will be Hog Roast at Stradey Castle – Tickets for the Hog Roast will need to be purchased from Eileen Beaumont or Heather Stretch – price to be confirmed.

#### **Cawl Walk Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

Walk in Pembrey Country Park followed by a bowl of Cawl with fresh bread and cheese, followed by welsh cakes.; all prepared by our resident chefs Diana and Jeff (vegetarians also catered for) bring your own bowl and spoon.

**Cambrian Way:** re-commences on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2015; walking 9.5 miles from Trawsfynydd to Tan y Grisiau. The remainder of the Cambrian Way is over three weekends on the following dates: **Beddgelert** 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2015 – two walks; Tan-y-grisiau to Nantmor & Nantmor to Bethania.

**Betws-y-coed** 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015 – two walks. Bethania to Pen-y-pass & Pen-y-pass to Llyn Ogwen

**Conway** 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> June 2015 – two walks. Llyn Ogwen to Bwlch y Dd & Bwlch y Dd to Conway. Exciting times are ahead. **Further information from John Maudsley – 01792-298354**

**Crickhowell Weekend:** 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> April 2015; there are two walks on offer each day. A short (C grade) walk with Hazel Blewett and a longer (A/B grade) walk with Jeff Davies. As Crickhowell is within reasonable commuting distance of Llanelli there is the option of either staying over the weekend or travelling each day.

**Festival of Walks 2015** – Plans for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Festival are well under way, the favourite walks supplied by members and visitors have been collated and brochure created. The evening opening will be at the Selwyn Samuel Centre, Mr. Peter Davies, one of the Festival Founders, has agreed to open the proceedings this year and like all good birthdays there will be cake and wine. The Sunday Party will be at the Selwyn Samuel with a hot buffet, and music provided by the Ramblers' favourite DJ Barry (the market). The Monday Welsh Tea will be in the Catholic Hall and to celebrate 20 years of the Festival all participants will have a complimentary tea. **PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT YOUR FESTIVAL.**

**Big Welsh Walk:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2015 Is again on the programme; though details are not as yet available please make a note in your diary as the weekend will have walks that are suitable for all the family.

**Hywel's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash:** 11<sup>th</sup> /12<sup>th</sup> August 2015. Join Hywel in celebrating his 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday by walking up Snowdon. For further information contact Hywel on: 01554-773149.

**Pembrey Camp:** 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015 – A weekend of entertainment for both children and adults either outdoors or in the marquee. Camping is more fun; but if this is not possible come for the day. For further information contact Hazel on: 01554-755331

**Cornwall September Holiday 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September 2015:** Staying in Hayle for a holiday with walks. Walking the Southwest Coastal Path from Lands End to The Lizard and a little beyond. For further details contact Adrienne/Huw 01554-751777.

**Agen Ramblers Visit:** 20 plus Agen Ramblers are visiting us 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015 to 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015. Their itinerary is to stay in the Marine Hotel Aberystwyth for three nights 29<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October; followed by a four night stay in Llanelli. A group of Llanelli Ramblers' will accompany our Agen friends in Aberystwyth (also staying in the Marine Hotel). In addition there are others who plan to stay in other accommodation in Aberystwyth. For further information contact Nina Clement 01554-810979.

**Llangrannog Weekend** – Organised by Janet and Robert Davies. Staying in the Gwersyll yr Urdd, Llangrannog 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2015 – Walking the 21 mile Aberaeron Trail over two days. This weekend is now fully booked, but there is a reserve list. For further information contact Janet/Robert on 01554-753596.

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**Monday Groups:** Both Monday groups continue to be very popular and active.

**Roamers:** The Monday Roamers have put together a full programme of walks up to the end of March and these can be found on the Llanelli Ramblers web-site. On the social side 18 roamers have booked for an "Afternoon Tea" in Llandovery at the "Bear Inn" for Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015. They will be travelling on "Heart of Wales" line making full use of their bus passes, as travelling on this line is **free** up to the end of March 2015.

For their annual walking break/holiday, Aberystwyth will be this year's venue and 18 members have signed up for the break. The dates are 5<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and we will be staying at the "Four Seasons Hotel" Walks have been arranged in and around Aberystwyth as well as a visit to the Bwlch Nant yr Arian, Red Kite Centre. Should anyone over 60 wish to receive further information, please ring David Quarmby on 01792-904133.

**Homers' Monday Group:** Meet every Monday at 10.30am at the Leisure Centre car park. Walks are easy, approximately 4 miles in length and fairly local. We usually take a snack (coffee/tea and a biscuit/fruit) for a short break, then, if walkers wish, they meet for lunch after the walk.

During October, in addition to our Monday walks, we enjoyed the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations the meal at Machynis Golf Club and the 1<sup>st</sup> of the Anniversary Walks. During November again we joined in the Anniversary Walks from Felinfoel to Penclacwydd. On December 8<sup>th</sup> we had our Christmas Lunch at the Stradey Park Hotel. December 10<sup>th</sup> the "Bring and Buy Sale" Christmas Quiz and a raffle with a difference. Our group was very

pleased to receive a Christmas Card from Peter and Gina (from Cumbria) wishing us all the best for 2015 and again thanking us for our company and the walk along the coast path towards Bynea.

Once a month we organize an away day walk, during the winter months we take advantage of the Heart of Wales free train. On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January the away walk was in Shrewsbury. Our new programme begins in February and will include the Twmpath Dawns and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Walk. In March we will be joining the Cawl Walk and the 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Walk. April we look forward to the Hog Roast and the final Anniversary Walk. In May we will once again join the Big Welsh Walk and take part in the Festival of Walks. During school holidays children/grandchildren/great grandchildren are welcome on Monday Homer Walks. For further information contact Eileen on: 01554-741306

**Additional Information:** The Ramblers Association is holding a Volunteer Development Day in Cardiff in July 2015. The programme will include half and full day workshops on appropriate topics (e.g. Leading Walks, Navigation Skills) there will be a maximum of 12 places per workshop. For further information contact John Cook – 01554-759211