



## Ramblers' Group News – July 2016

This year's Crickhowell Weekend 2nd and 3rd April 2016 led by Hazel Blewitt, Diana and Jeff Davies again proved to be very successful. Attendance over the two days with two walks on each day totaled 61. Campers, B&B and Cottage stayers amounted to 19, with the remainder travelling on a daily basis. As per usual with this weekend the walks were interesting and somewhat demanding, whilst the weather remained dry during the duration of the walks. The weekend was concluded with a meal at the Bear Crickhowell.

Having completed a third of the Summer Programme it is pleasing to report that attendances on all walks have been good. This time last year there was some concern about the attendances on the Thursday evening walks, in contrast this year attendances have regularly been in the teens.

This term we had two walks that included a visit by the Wednesday walkers to the Caffle Brewery in Llawhaden where excellent beer was sampled at below pub prices; and the Monday Roamers visited Felinfoel Brewery and were in receipt of free samples of beer but had to pay for their tea/coffee.

**St Illtyd's Way – Re- launch:** A large number of well-wishers and supporters turned out to witness the re-launch of St Illtyd's Way in Pembrey Country Park on Saturday 30th April. The ceremony was performed by Audrey Davies, widow of Colin, who originally devised the long-distance path in 1994. Corris Edwards who collaborated with Colin and who provided the illustrations for the guidebook was also present.

Colin Davies' son, Martin, spoke at the ceremony and leading contributions were also made by Angela Charlton of Ramblers Cymru and Nia Griffith, M.P., who it turns out, is also a member of the all-party mountain walking group in Westminster. A bouquet was presented to Audrey on behalf of the group.

Following the re-launch, 57 walkers from five ramblers' groups set off on the first 12 mile stage of St Illtyd's, led by Jeff and Diana.

Subsequently, there have been two more walks in this joint project, 21st May and 18th June, the latter led by colleagues in Swansea Ramblers. The numbers taking part remain high (over 50 on each occasion) and other groups such as Lampeter, Cardiff, Taff Ely and the Vale of Glamorgan have also become involved.

Two more stages are planned during the current programme – 23rd July and 3rd September. On the latter date, the stage will be led by colleagues from the Neath Port Talbot group.

## **2016 FESTIVAL of WALKS**

Our theme this year was Valleys and Coast, with walks in the Rhondda, Cothi and Gwendraeth Valleys, whilst the coastal walks took place around Amroth, Tenby and Dunraven Bay. The launch of the weekend was in the Selwyn Samuel Centre attended by local dignitaries. Dawn and Roger from Cotswold's Carmarthen offered a range of goods for sale, with Roger demonstrating how to use walking poles to best effect. He also gave tips on buying boots and getting the best fit. There was a free raffle and the Berghaus Day Bag and Water Bottle donated by Cotswold were won by Mary Buttimore and Sue Jones respectively.

The three days of walking turned out to be virtually rain free, with the added blessing of warm sunshine for most of the time.

The traditional family walk attracted over 43 participants, with goodies and free Welsh Tea provided for the children.

Congratulations and thank you to all the volunteers who contributed to the success of the 2016 Festival of Walks. First the festival committee who in their monthly meetings, which start straight away in June, develop,

organise and steer the direction of the festival whilst working to a strict tight timetable. Then the walk leaders and back markers who research their designated walk and provide risk assessments and maps. This year they led a total of 180 walkers.....93 of whom were non-members. Also the individuals who man HQ over the weekend and are on call as a last resort if walk leaders require advice or assistance. Last but certainly not least the ladies who prepare the wonderful Welsh tea which always ends the Festival on a high note and not forgetting the 5 or so Mary Berry,s who provided the delicious cakes. This year 110 adults and children enjoyed the event

Finally grateful thanks to our sponsors, namely, Llanelli Rural Council, Llanelli Town Council, Burry Port and Pembrey Council and the Principality Building Society. Gwynne Price for subsidising the cost of the coach. In conclusion, I am pleased to report that the feedback from the Festival participants has been positive, with many thank you messages received, which makes it all worthwhile. Hope to see you all in the 2017 Festival! Alwyn ---  
Festival Chairman

## **Summer 2016**

It may be July already, but there's still walking aplenty this summer : Thursday evenings, awaydays, weekends away and the Summer Camp in Pembrey. Not to mention Huw and Adrienne's annual pilgrimage to the Cornish Coast in September.

Ongoing projects such as Offa's Dyke continue with a weekend expedition to Montgomery this month for the next two legs of this long-distance footpath. After Montgomery, the plan is to have extended weekends away so that the Offa's Dyke project can be completed within the next 12 months, starting with Oswestry in the spring. Keep an eye on the web for more updates.

Hannah Morgan's project of leading the South Wales Section of the Wales Coast Path continues, with Chepstow to be reached by the end of the Summer Programme. Hannah has tentative plans to walk the North Wales sections via a weekly holiday rather than weekends.

The current programme for the month of October is still being developed, just waiting for a date to be finalised for the annual “Beating of the Bounds”, so that the weekend programme can be finalised.

Once this happens, various walks can be slotted in and there will be at least one walk on every weekend. There is however no problem with the Wednesday slots which are all filled.

As for more joint walks – put a date in your diary for Sunday 23rd September, when we join our friends in Lampeter on a 10 mile walk in the Defynnog / Crai area.

Just keep a watchful eye on your e-mails and the website for the changes when they happen.

### **Forthcoming Events:**

Trip to Lundy on 24th August -

**Annual August Bank Holiday Camp** at Pembrey Country Park – which offers events and entertainment for both children and adults:

Friday 26th August - Evening Walk followed by a Jeff Davies BBQ

Saturday 27th August – Day time entertainment for the children plus a 6 mile walk for adults followed by a Poems, Pints & Paella Evening.

Sunday 28th August – Day time entertainment for the children plus a 9 mile walk for adults followed by a Children and Adults Ramblers have Talent Evening

Monday 29th August - Day time entertainment for the children plus a Film Night.

### **Golden Wedding**

Saturday 24th September - A celebratory walk to mark Mary and Jim’s Golden Wedding Anniversary. Free transport and a finish in the Cresswell Arms – well- worth the £10 for a Hog Roast buffet. There are still some places left on the bus.

**Cornwall Holiday:** 10th to 17th September – meeting arranged for Tuesday 2nd Aug 2016 @ 7.30pm

**Llangrannog Weekend:** 18th to 20th November

**Agen:** return visit to Agen in Sept/Oct 2017- meeting arranged for Tues 26th July 2016 @ 7.30pm

**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 Mondays at their programme instructions time. Further information: David Quarmby on 01792-904133

Homers: Now meet on Mondays at 10 am at Festival Fields. Further information: Eileen Beaumont on 01554-741306

walks programme(s) can be found on our web site.

N.B. 1. The next Llanelli Ramblers Committee meeting is on Tuesday 11th October 2016 at 7pm in the Halfway Hotel Llanelli (it is open for any member to attend)

2. The 2016 AGM is on Tuesday 8th November 2016 at 7pm in the Halfway Hotel Llanelli.