



Ramblers' Group News – January 2018

The 34th AGM was held on the 7th November 2017 at the Selwyn Samuel Centre, cafeteria; the room was packed with about 50 members and two guests from Ramblers Cymru, Cardiff Office. Despite many positive aspects the overall atmosphere was inharmonious and uncomfortable, not characteristic of a group known for its friendly attitude.

Huw Francis resigned as the Newsletter editor after many years as our dedicated “hack”. Sincere thanks to Huw for all his wonderful work on the newsletter over the years.

During the meeting 5 members of the committee declined re-election

John Clements	Chairman
John Cook	Secretary
David Clementson	Treasurer
Susan Roberts	Walks Programme Secretary
Bernard Dezalu	Membership Secretary.

We thank them for all their good work on behalf of Llanelli Ramblers.

Due to a lack of volunteers on the night not all the committee roles were filled, but since the AGM all the roles have now been covered and the 2017/18 committee now stands as:-

Alwyn Williams	Chairman & Festival of Walks representative.
Rob Davies	Vice Chair
Huw Francis	Treasurer
Nina Clements	Secretary & Web Secretary
Eirwen Stephens	Minutes Secretary
Paul Barrett	Footpath Secretary & Monday Roamers representative
Kath Lewis	Programme Secretary
Monica Rees	Publicity Secretary
Pat Pope	Social Committee representative
Mike Williams	Newsletter
Eileen Beaumont	Membership Secretary & Monday Homers representative
Pam Panchant	Social Fund Administrator.

The AGM ended with a finger buffet.

Social Events: Our Social Committee have organised a season of excellent evenings to help us through the winter months.

In October at the Selwyn Samuel Centre there was an extremely interesting talk and slides by Brian Davies entitled "Anglesey to Harlech"

We enjoyed the talent of vocalist and guitarist Chris Rees in November. He presented an excellent programme of Country and Western songs and music. As the event was held at the Catholic Hall Llanelli, we were able to self-cater in terms of supplying our own drinks and nibbles.

On Wednesday 6th December, 84 Llanelli Ramblers and friends attended an excellent lunch at the Ashburnam Hotel. The food was very good, as was the carol singing which was led by Alwyn Williams.

Also in December, at the Private Greens Bowls Club, we enjoyed "A Christmas Night", a fun evening with a quiz and games backed up by mulled wine and mince pies.

Again at the Bowls club in January there was a very informative lecture by Lt. Col. David Mathias on the Zulu Wars and the effect of the poor understanding of the military strength of the Zulus.

As we go to press the social calendar continues with:-

Saturday 27 th January 7pm	Welsh Night at the Stag, Five Roads.
Thursday 8 th February 7:30pm	Beetle Drive with Carolyn and Howell at the Bowls Club.
Saturday 24 th February 7:30pm	Twmpath with fish and chips at the Catholic Hall.
Wednesday 28 th February 10:30am	Cawl Walk at the Pembrey Country Park
Friday 9 th March 7pm	Skittles Night at the Poachers Rest Ferryside

Please look at the Social Events page on our web site for full details.

Santa Trail: On 30th December 40 adults, 16 children and 4 dogs escorted Santa on his annual 4 mile trek around Pembrey Country Park. The children were kept very busy ticking off on their tick sheets the 40 individually named Santa cards that had been hung on trees posts and bushes around the route. At the end of the walk Mr & Mrs Santa Davies provided hot chocolate for the children and mulled wine for the bigger children. The day ended with free toboggan rides for the children.

Air Ambulance Donation: During December donations in lieu of giving each other Christmas Cards and the sponsorship for those brave souls who braved the elements for the Boxing Day Walrus Dip raised a fantastic combined total of £539.

Walking Events:

Llangrannog Weekend 13th – 15th April. Currently fully booked.

Crickhowell Weekend 28th - 29th April. Another weekend of walks planned by Hazel, Jeff and Diana.

Wales Coastal Path. Hannah, Jeff and Diana have plans to continue their project of walking another section of the AWP. This time it is planned to walk over a week's holiday. Probably sometime in June.

Festival of Walks 25th to 28th May – Brochures are currently being printed and will offer 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.

Two Moors Way. A 120 mile long distance path, walking across Devon from Plymouth to Lynmouth. Two long weekends in 2018 probably June and September followed by another 2 weekends in 2019. Details from Peter and Ian 01554 741480

South West Coast Path. 8th to 15th September – Based at Looe the project of walking the 630 miles of SWCP continues. For further information contact Adrienne/Huw – 01554 751777

Homers and Roamers.

Homers. The programme for the latter end of 2017 was informal and walks were arranged on a weekly basis, but there is now a full three month schedule on the programme.

Roamers. A full, 3 month, programme of walks has been planned for the winter months, some involving free transport on the Heart of Wales Line. Walking holidays in Ellesmere and Llangollen have also been arranged for later in the year.

Footpath Maintenance Working Parties. Carmarthenshire County Council has reduced its Public Rights of Way team (PRoW) from 8 rangers to 4. In light of this our footpaths officer Paul Barrett has discussed the matter of volunteer working parties with Martin Murray of the PRoW team. Martin is happy for Llanelli Ramblers to form working parties to help with path maintenance, working alongside, and under the direction of, the local ranger. Another development on this subject is that Jeff Davies will be the working party co-ordinator. Jeff and Paul are due to have another meeting with Martin to discuss specific job requirements.

Here is an update from John Maudsley on The Heart of Wales Line trail:-

Full Steam Ahead for Heart of Wales Line Trail

Over the winter months, a resolute band of Llanelli Ramblers' Volunteers has been affixing roundels along the length of the Trail, northwards and eastwards from Llanelli to Llandybie. And, just as the railway navvies of old, facing and overcoming countless dangers in the process; biting winds, immersion in waist-deep mire, dodging the waves of incoming tides, and suffering the attacks of domesticated animals.

All being well though, we'll reach Llandeilo by February. Then, as if this wasn't enough punishment, some of our brave band have volunteered as individuals to work under new taskmasters in Powys, where we might even get to build bridges and install gates.

Is this what they call community service?

If you fancy taking part, give us a ring on 01792 298354.

Official Opening Ceremony: Southern Section of HoWL Trail, 27th March 2018

Following the infrastructure work undertaken by the various county rights-of-way teams in Carmarthenshire and Swansea, the southern section of the Trail is open for business and will be officially launched at a ceremony in March.

Badging work, see above, is nearing completion, and because the bulk of the Ammanford to Llanelli section lies within the boundaries of the City and County of Swansea, Pontarddulais has been chosen for the launch site - the Town Council having been a long-time supporter of the project.

Guests include Swansea's Lord Mayor, the Mayor of Pontarddulais and representatives of Network Rail and Arriva Trains Wales.

Following the opening ceremony at the railway station at 10.15 am, a series of guided walks will then be available, along the newly-opened section of the Trail through Coedbach Park.

These include a three miler to the site of the church at Llandeilo Tal-y-bont, on the banks of the Afon Llŵchwr, and two circular walks of four and six miles, which will finish back in Coedbach Park, to enable walkers to sample a range of free activities, which will be taking part there, courtesy of Swansea Council's Park Lives project.

Longer, linear walks along the Trail, of seven miles to Loughor, and twelve miles to Llanelli, will also be available; the latter finishing in the Miramar Hotel.

Keep your eyes peeled for further details nearer the date.

AND FINALLY:

Going back to last August's "Poems and Pints" evening at the Pembrey camp, one of the winning, adult poems did not make the Autumn Newsletter, so here it is, from the pen of Kath Lewis:-

THE PORTALOO

Out for a drive I went one day
Over the hill and far away.

Miles from home I had a need,
It was a desperate one indeed.

I really had to spend a penny
But a toilet, I could not find any.

There was no cover of bush or tree
And I just had to go for a wee.

Then I caught a glimpse of something blue,
Yes, my saviour, a Portaloo.

I stopped the car and locked it
And put my keys into my pocket.

I opened the door but Oh what a pong!
But needs must and I still carried on.

Driven on by sheer desperation
I entered the loo with some trepidation.

But as I bent down to do my thing,
I heard a clang and then a ping.

My poor heart nearly stopped
When I realised my keys had dropped

Into the murky depths below
And I cried out "Oh no"!

To my horror and dismay
I knew in my car my phone did lay.

So thus no help I could call upon
And only my wits had to rely on.

Then inspiration took hold of me
As I just had to retrieve that key.

I looked around and soon found
An old umbrella on the ground.

From a spoke I made a hook
And shoved it down that smelly nook.

I fished around and pulled with might,
Out came my keys but full of shite.

So the moral of this tale of woe,

Should you ever need a Portaloo
Never take your keys with you!

Kath Lewis
