



Newsletter

Winter 2019

Hello,

Summer will soon be a distant memory as we unpack our winter layers in preparation for the colder days. To break us in gently, we'll have some lovely autumn walks to prepare us for the changing seasons. Remember to tell people you know that we walk all year around because some think we hibernate in the winter as it's just too cold to go out walking!

Thank you to our volunteer leaders

Remember that we wouldn't be able to provide the walks that we do without members volunteering to lead walks. Don't forget to thank them after the walk but in advance we thank each one now for their contribution to the programme. If you have never led a walk yourself, it may seem daunting but we are always looking to encourage new leaders and give support to learn how to lead. Ask us about giving it a go for the next programme and maybe buddy up with a fellow Rambler so there's two of you to lead together.

Social Events

The social committee have introduced a number of different events this year: skittles, canoeing, wine tasting, picnic in the park and visit to a church followed by tea and cakes. These have proved popular and if members have an idea for a social event then please let the Social Committee know. Enjoying a meal out has not been forgotten and another event is planned at Topo Gigio on 24th October 2019. Don't forget to book for the Christmas dinner; see the menu and let us know your choices!

Printing the programme

Our member, Wayne Pulman has for some years provided us with programme printing at his office free of charge. Unfortunately he is unable to continue to offer this service to the group so we would like to thank him for his valuable contribution to Swansea Ramblers over the years. We are now using a commercial printer but Myra is arranging to offset the postage costs by organising a band of volunteers to hand deliver to as many members as they can.

Thanks to our other volunteers

It's not just leaders who keep us walking! There are a small band of volunteers, some of whom come to committee to deal with the admin and walking issues that arise. Footpath issues are looked into and our work party clears and maintains footpaths on behalf of the council. Our walks coordinators work behind the scenes to liaise with leaders to collate walks and resolve issues subsequently affecting advertised walks. Our social committee work hard to make our

social events the success that they are. Publicity is undertaken to attract new members and those members are sent letters/emails welcoming them to the group. Each volunteer makes a valuable contribution to the group and we thank them for the work they do.

Can you spare a few hours a month to help your group? – If so, speak to a member of the committee to find out how.

Weekend Away 2019

The weekend away will be in Ironbridge and details are in the programme. We have a long and a short walk each day and everybody enjoys the socialising afterwards. If you haven't booked for this one, think about joining us on a future weekend away.

Coach trip to Gloucester 2020

In the summer, we will have a day trip to Gloucester where the former dock estate has become a popular free destination where members can enjoy interesting views and a range of modern facilities while wandering around a remarkably complete example of a Victorian port. Views include many fine warehouses and other dock-related buildings that have found new uses. Where ships once discharged their cargoes, there is now an ever-changing miscellany of visiting narrow boats, smart motor cruisers and the occasional yacht or tall ship.

Welsh Council comes to town (almost!)

Once a year the Ramblers throughout Wales come together to discuss the future of walking in Wales and the delegates vote on motions put forward. The gathering alternates between North and South Wales but next year on 21st – 22nd March 2020, it is on our doorstep at Margam Country Park. Details are yet to be finalised but we hope some of you will come along to find out more.

Area AGM

More 'local' than Welsh Council is the Glamorgan Area AGM and walk on Saturday 9th November. This is another chance to see how the wider Ramblers movement works in Wales, this time just within the old Glamorgan County area. It takes place in Parc Slip where we have walked on a number of occasions

Our AGM

Even more local and accessible will be our AGM and walk from the Purple Badger at the Llanrhidian Holiday Park on Saturday 26th October. We can have a meal afterwards but before that, we'll have a guest speaker, Richard Daugherty to tell us about some of the historic routes across Gower.

Is it something we said?

Prior to the advent of GDPR, we were emailing group updates to most of our members. Now 18 months later, there are still about 100 members who used to receive emails but have not re-consented to continue to receive them. Our membership secretary has been trying to contact some of those members but often receives no reply. The information we send includes last minute changes to walks and social events so without registering your consent with the

membership department in London, those members miss out on group updates. If you haven't re-consented, please arrange to update your membership record to allow us to re-start sending you details about your group.

Membership

We continue to grow although at a lesser pace than previous years. Many new members first found us by reading What's On but the editors have changed their format so we can no longer advertise our walks. If you know of anybody who would like to begin walking, encourage them to give us a try. Word of mouth is often better than reading about it in a magazine.

Projectless!

We still haven't had the offer of a series of walks to complete a route such as the Pembrokeshire Coast Path. We always used to have a project for a long distance path so we'd be happy to hear from somebody who can organise a sequence of walks.

What3words

Available for your mobile phone, this app can be used to pinpoint your location and convert it into three words which uniquely identify your precise location in a form you can easily give to the emergency services. If you can't read a map, don't know your Grid Ref or Lat/Lon, you can just quote these three words and they will know your location.

See you on a walk,

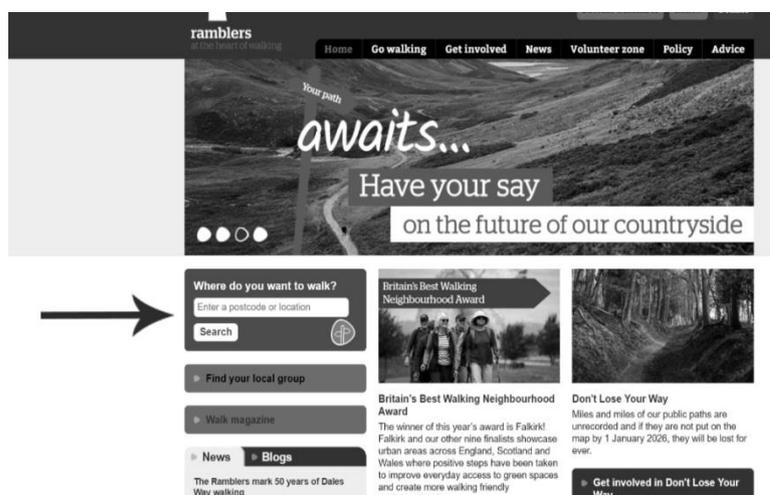
Andrew Morgan

Useful Features on the Ramblers Website

Our publicity officer, Richard Beale has provided the following information about finding a walk led by a Ramblers Group, including Swansea Ramblers. Also Self-Guided Walk routes checked by members of the Ramblers and other resources.

Where Do You Want to Walk?

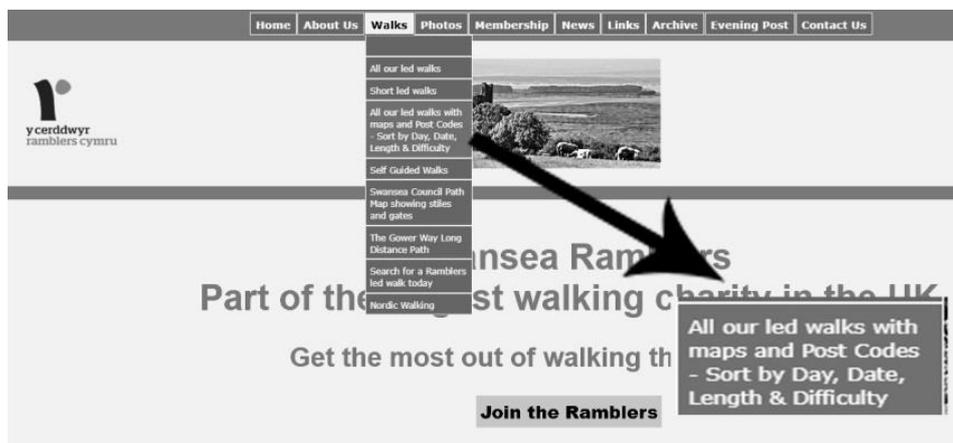
There is a walk finder facility which can be found on the left side of the Ramblers GB Home page (<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/>) entitled, '*Where do you want to walk?*'



If you enter search details, this will give you a list of group walks and self-guided Ramblers routes entered by Ramblers volunteers within a radius of a given place e.g. Swansea up to 25 miles.

You can also add filters to your search e.g. type or length of walk. The amount of detail about group walks is dependent on what each group enters.

You can also use Swansea Ramblers website to access this site. If you choose the section highlighted below, it links to walk finder on The Ramblers website and the walk entry includes a map of the meeting and start points.



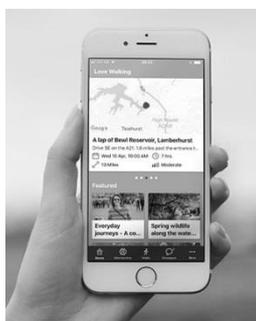
Ramblers Routes

These are also part of this search. (You will need to log into the website to make full use of the features). These are self-guided walks compiled by Rambler members and usually contain a lot of details about the route and points of interest. These can be useful if you want to find a local walk, say when you are on holiday. They can also be useful to walk leaders for ideas for walks either by using the route directly, or as a basis for a walk to go into their group programme.

Walk Leader Checklist

A handy list of tips to help walk leaders to run safe and enjoyable walks. I have some copies of this but you can also download it from the website: <http://tinyurl.com/y826c98k>

Ramblers app



This is a new facility available for both iPhone and Android Phones and is your expert guide to exploring the outdoors on foot. The Ramblers App is your walking companion, helping members find, join and enjoy Ramblers group walks in England, Scotland and Wales. You can find details via the home page on The Ramblers GB website.