

Ramblers Christmas Dinner

King Arthur Hotel, Reynoldston

Sunday 1st December 2013

Organiser: Zetta Flew

Meet: 01.30 p.m. for 02.00 p.m.

The Dinner has been arranged to take place after the local walk so that those Ramblers wanting to work up a proper appetite can do so - and still join the party! The meal will be open to friends and family but please ensure you book everyone in by **16th October 2013**.

Three courses Price: £17.95

The Menu Options are as follows:

Starters

- Homemade Roasted Butternut Squash, Chestnut & Thyme Soup
- Homemade Pork & Laver bread Pate with a Spiced Apple & Cinnamon Chutney
- Citrus Home Cured Gravavlax with Wholegrain Mustard Dressing & Pickled Cucumber Pappardelle
- Warm Filo Tartlet of Sun Blanched Tomato, Basil & Mozzarella with Dressed Leaves

Main

- Roast Topside of Welsh Beef with Yorkshire Pudding
- Roast Turkey, Bacon Wrapped Chipolata, Chestnut & Sage Stuffing with Homemade Cranberry Sauce
- Roasted Welsh Pork Tenderloin stuffed with Apricots, wrapped with Pancetta served with an Apple Cider Cream Sauce
- Fillet of Salmon with a Parmesan & Herb Crust served with a Sun Blanched Tomato & Basil Pesto
- Flat Mushroom, Cranberry & Brie Wellington served with Roasted Vegetables

Dessert

- Dark Chocolate Brownie with Mulled Wine Poached Pears & Cinnamon Cream
- Homemade Lemon & Pistachio Pannacotta with Vanilla Shortbread
- Traditional Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce
- Cherry & Amaretti Cheesecake with Cherry Compote

Coffee And Petit Fours

Payment to be made by **16th October 2013 (AGM)**

Please send your choice of menu and cheque to:

Zetta Flew, 8 Meadowcroft, Southgate, Swansea, SA3 2DF

The cheque should be payable to: "RAMBLERS SOCIAL FUND".

You can also pay in person at the AGM on **16th October 2013**
at The Environment Centre, Pier Street.

Newsletter

Autumn 2013



Hello,

Our memorable hot summer is on its way out but we can look forward to autumn tints, crisp winter days and the new growth of spring during the current programme. We have another good selection of walks provided by our volunteer leaders with some of our newer members offering to lead their first walks. We all owe a big thank you to our leaders because without them we wouldn't be walking! Of course, another big thank you goes to those committee volunteers who contact the leaders, obtain walk details and keep reminding other would-be leaders that there are still dates in the programme where nobody has yet volunteered a walk!

Retiring committee members

A big thank you goes to our ex-secretary Zetta Flew for all the hard work she has done for Swansea Ramblers and Ramblers Cymru over the years. Zetta retired as secretary at the last AGM but remained on committee for one more year until the AGM in October.

Another big thank you goes to our retiring vice-chair, Roger Jones. Roger has served us for many years on membership and footpath maintenance and like Zetta is another loss to the committee. I'm sure we'll see both of them on walks for many years to come.

Come meet the committee!

Every month on a Wednesday evening, a band of Ramblers volunteers meet to discuss all things walking that may affect our members and their enjoyment of the countryside. The meeting is open to all to attend and we generally head over to the Pump House afterwards for refreshments. If you'd like to come along then we'd love to see you!

Saturday Short Walks

We again have a full programme of Saturday short walks thanks to co-ordinator Lynne Esson and the members who volunteered to lead walks. The short walks programme started last autumn and has been a success story for Swansea Ramblers. So many new members have joined because of these walks that we are praised at area meetings for bucking the trends of declining numbers elsewhere in Glamorgan. To-date, the record for the largest number of Saturday walkers is 31 on Terry's North Gower Walk in August but we regularly have around 20 people out enjoying leisurely walks of up to 6 miles.

New 'Tesco' members of our group

At £32, annual membership can be daunting for new walkers although if they walked with us every week, this represents less than £1 per walk. Help is at hand or should I say "*Every little Helps*" as Tesco Clubcard vouchers can be exchanged for first year membership for new Ramblers. If you know of anyone new to walking who is thinking of joining, just tell them to Google "*Tesco Ramblers Membership*" for £11 single membership details or £15 joint membership.

Saturday Long Walks

A few of our members cannot do Sunday long walks because of other commitments. They may have to babysit grandchildren or the family comes around for Sunday Lunch or they wish to go to Church or Chapel etc.

In this programme we've introduced a couple of long Saturday walks on those weekends when we don't run a Long Sunday Walk. If you fancy leading a Saturday Long walk, (minimum 8 miles) then keep it in mind for January when we put together the summer programme (Yes! – in the depths of winter we are already planning summer!).

What we need of course is for someone to co-ordinate this Saturday series of 13 walks to ensure as many of the dates as possible are filled. If you think you'd like to give it a try then just have a word with us to see what it's involved.

Sunday Short/Medium Walks

Every other Sunday, we try to include a short/ medium walk since some members prefer these to the Sunday Long Walks. If you think you could lead a walk or maybe co-ordinate these 13 walks by talking to leaders, have a word with us and we'll tell you more about it.

Sunday Long Walks

We have provided long Sunday walks for many years but it becomes increasingly difficult to fill all the dates so if you think you would like to lead a long walk, why not ask us what's involved. We can provide training (more on that later in the newsletter).

Weekday Walks

Many of our members are retired and some would like to walk on weekdays. Do you want more walks in the week? At the moment we try to provide one walk a month which alternates between Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday (which in itself is confusing?). We could of course do a walk every week if enough leaders are interested. Do you want to fix the day to the same day each week? Some people have commitments on certain days and that is why we alternate at the moment to give them a chance to come out with us.

If you want more walks on weekdays and don't lead them at the moment, why not volunteer to lead just one on the next programme. If enough new leaders come forward and offer a walk then we can provide more regular walks. It would also be great if someone would volunteer to co-ordinate weekday walks with the leaders.

Are you missing out on what's happening?

We've set up an email list to send out newsletters every so often and let you know when social events have been arranged. If you are not already on our email list, contact me at webmaster@swansearamblers.org.uk and I'll get you added to the list.

Scottish Holiday Sneak Preview & AGM Wednesday 16th October 2013

6-7 p.m. Ian & Mark are organising next year's walking holiday (see below for more details). Before the your AGM, Ian is going to give us one of his interesting slideshows showing some potential walks we can do and maybe tell us a lot more about Arran than many of us know! Come along at 6 p.m. to hear about the arrangements for the trip and reserve your place on the walks. Ian would also like to hear from

anyone who may be interested in leading some of the shorter walks while he and Mark lead the long ones.

At 7 p.m., your AGM will start and this is the time to find out what has been happening over the last year and talk to the committee about the year to come. It would be lovely to see you there so make a note of the date for Ian's slideshow and after that we'll go on to start the meeting.

Glamorgan Area AGM Saturday 2nd November 2013

The Rambler Groups in Glamorgan all get together for an area AGM with a short walk before to get us in the mood to talk about walking. We'll hear some of the things that have happened during the year and what is planned for next year. It's being held at Miskin in the All Hallow's Church Hall (further details in the programme).

Christmas Dinner Sunday 1st December 2013

I'm sitting here roasting in the summer heat and I'm writing about Christmas! Well the roast I'll want in December is Turkey but there's an extensive menu enclosed if you fancy something else. Please let Zetta know your choices by 16th October at the latest AND include your cheque! Peter Jones has again agreed to lead us on a pre-lunch walk to work up an appetite and once more we'll have the use of guest rooms at the King Arthur to freshen up before the meal. If you've not been before then you'll find that the Avalon suite at the rear of the hotel is a lovely venue for our meal. Please feel free to book for your friends and relatives even if they are not members.

Thai Social and Leader's Meeting Monday 13th January 2014

The Thai meal social will again be at the Bay View Hotel at 7 p.m. Come along and enjoy the evening as many of us did last July. While the leaders sort out the walks for summer, enjoy the Thai cuisine and meet up with fellow walkers for a chat and a pint.

Week Away 10th - 17th May 2014

Next May we'll be heading off to Bonnie Scotland for a week's walking on the island of Arran and due to the distance to be travelled, the usual weekend has expanded into a week. Ian Smith and Mark Wolle are arranging the walking while individuals will need to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. The leaders will need to know as soon as possible if you are intending to go so they can work out the shuttle arrangements. Please note there will be a maximum number of walkers that they can safely take on some of the walks.

Ramblers Holidays

Remember your group receives a donation when you book a holiday with Ramblers Holidays. Be sure to tell them that you belong to Swansea Ramblers when you book your holiday and they'll send us a donation towards the group funds.

Ramblers Archive

Have you any old photos for our web site? We've already received some and I'll be uploading them when time permits. I also have copies of the programmes from 1982-1991 (and very interesting reading they make). Does anyone have the 1981 programmes for the year we were formed? The first ever walk was in Briton Ferry Woods but I don't have the programme!

Walking Articles

I now write a weekly article in Saturday's Evening Post, a monthly one for Swansea Life and a monthly/bi-monthly one for What's On. Each one promotes Swansea Ramblers so let's hope we get more people out walking!

Work Party

Yes! We're still cutting back vegetation, building bridges, stiles and making sure walkers in Swansea and Gower can enjoy themselves (without realising how much hard work goes into path maintenance). So a very big thank you to all our volunteers and if you'd like to have a go, contact Bob Denley (footpaths@swansearamblers.org.uk) and he'll tell you when the next path is to be cleared.

Footpaths

While we're on the subject of blocked paths, if you come across a path which for some reason is obstructed (vegetation or otherwise), don't just ignore it, let Bob Denley know and he can speak to the council to resolve the issue. If you can give a grid reference for the problem or describe where it is, this will help Bob to check out the path.

First aid Training

It is obviously useful and valuable for all of us if some of our members are trained in First Aid. The Committee has in the past arranged a certificated course with a reputable First Aid training organisation and we intend to do the same this year. These are very good courses and we pay for them out of local funds, (though we are also making a grant application for funds from the Local Community Chest). These courses have an obvious appeal to anyone who is either already a leader on a regular basis or is contemplating leading. We would very much like to get some view of demand from our members, so if you are interested please contact the Secretary:

John France, 54 The Orchard, Newton, Swansea SA3 4UQ

Tel: 01792-547439 Email: John.france2@ntlworld.com

Leader's Training

Many people who already lead walks would like to develop their skills, while others who are contemplating leading would like to know something about it. The Ramblers national body would like, therefore, to provide courses which will provide both an introduction to leading and an extension of the knowledge of those already doing it. These courses would be put on locally by them in conjunction with our local group. We need expressions of interest from members before approaching HQ, so if you are interested please contact John France (Details above).

Walk Gradings

We have adopted the National Ramblers walk grading system and full details of this can be found in the programme. The main change is that our 'Easy' walks are rebranded as 'Leisurely'.

See you on a walk,

Andrew Morgan

Y CERDDWYR / THE RAMBLERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SWANSEA GROUP

The 32nd Annual General Meeting will be held at

The Environment Centre, Swansea

Wednesday 16th October 2013

7pm

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE AGM OF 17 October 2012**
3. **MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ON THE AGENDA**
4. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
5. **REPORTS OF OFFICERS:**
 - A. Secretary
 - B. Treasurer
 - C. Membership Secretary
 - D. Programme Secretary
 - E. Footpaths Officer
 - F. Working Party Officer
 - G. Publicity Officer
 - H. Social Secretary
6. **REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**
7. **APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS**
8. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**
9. **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**
10. **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR**
11. **MOTIONS OR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION:**

Committee Proposal:
That the Air Ambulance be adopted as our particular charity.
[It is envisaged that in the month of May collections will be held on all walks and an event or events will be arranged for fund raising.]
12. **Date of the 2014 AGM is Wednesday 22 October at 7pm**
at the Environment Centre, Pier Street, Swansea.

Nomination / Notice of Motion

Officers & Committee Members 2013-2014

Post	Name of Officer
Chairman	J Vernon Davies
Vice-Chairman	*****POSITION VACANT*****
Secretary	John France
Treasurer	Andrew Morgan
Footpaths Secretary	Bob Denley
Membership Secretary	Steve Hawkes
Minutes Secretary	Ann Sedge
Publicity Officer	Richard Beale
Social Secretary	Peter Jones
Work party Co-ordinator	Bob Denley
Programme Co-ordinator	Roger Brown
Programme (Evening Walks)	*****POSITION VACANT*****
Programme (Midweek Walks)	*****POSITION VACANT*****
Programme (Saturday Walks - Short)	Lynne Esson
Programme (Saturday Walks - Long)	*****POSITION VACANT*****
Programme (Sunday Walks -Long)	Roger Brown
Programme (Sunday Walks - Short)	*****POSITION VACANT*****
Committee Member	Jan Banfield
Committee Member	*****POSITION VACANT*****
Committee Member	*****POSITION VACANT*****
Committee Member	*****POSITION VACANT*****

Retiring Officials

The following officials have retired from committee. The present committee would like to thank the retiring officers for their assistance in the administration of Swansea Group. Without sufficient volunteers it is difficult to organise the activities which the membership enjoy.

Retiring Post	Name of Officer
Vice-Chairman	Roger Jones
Committee Member	Zetta Flew

New members of Committee needed

A number of committee undertake more than one task to ensure we always have a programme of walks for our members to enjoy and to attract new walkers to join the group. One of the ways you could help would be to ask leaders to lead a walk on a weekday or evening. This could be done when you are on a walk or by phoning them later. Having someone who could focus on just this section of the programme would mean we could offer everyone a walk each week and walks on summer evenings.

If you know of anyone who would like to serve on committee, please complete the nomination form overleaf or contact the secretary if you wish to know more about the essential work the committee undertakes for your group.

Nomination / Notice of Motion

Nomination

Inominate to serve on the Committee of the Swansea Group. The person so nominated has indicated a willingness to serve.

Motion

Iwish to place before the Group at its Annual General Meeting, the following motion for consideration:-

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Please return form by 1st October 2013 to the Secretary,
John France at 54 The Orchard, Newton, Swansea SA3 4UQ,