

# Newsletter

Autumn 2016



*Hello,*

It's been another good summer for Swansea Ramblers with many varied and enjoyable walks to choose from. Yes! We've had some bad weather as well but that just adds to the variety of walking in the countryside. Now suddenly I'm thinking of winter but that's because I've had a sneak preview of the next six months of walks on the winter programme!

## ***New members***

Again we welcome many new members to the group and hope you are enjoying the walks and socials that we arrange. If you know of anyone who may like to start walking then encourage them to come along. Our membership secretary, Peter Jones can provide them with information about the group and how to join the Ramblers.

## ***Evening Walks***

This year we've put on a few evening walks that have been very well supported by our members, showing that there is a desire amongst the group to get out after work and enjoy the fresh air. These walks are short and usually end up in a local hostelry for refreshments so are really enjoyed by the participants. In 2017 we'd like to offer a walk every week so we'd really like some of you to volunteer to lead a walk of 2-4 miles. It's not that difficult and your walk will be really appreciated. – and I'll start putting together the summer programme in January!

## ***Night walks***

Apart from specials such as Red Nose Day, our enjoyable night walks with heads torches seem to have quietly taken a holiday. It must be some time since we did one since I've been busy tonight cleaning the battery corrosion out of my head torch (*mental note: take the batteries out when not in use!!*). Are there any leaders out there who want to take us on a nocturnal walk to a ... pub?

## ***Winter programme***

You will have received with this newsletter your winter programme. For many, this is a six-monthly posting that just seems to happen without any effort but believe me, there's a lot of blood, sweat and tears behind it!! – OK - maybe it's not that bad but it does take a lot of work by the coordinators to persuade leaders to provide walks for the programme. So thank you to the leaders, coordinators, programme proof readers and to those for physically printing the thing – (*yes we have to print it as well!!*). Although this winter programme is complete I now have to start thinking about the 2017 summer programme! So please, could all leaders and potential new leaders start thinking about their next walk for the summer programme! - As I said before, I'll be asking you again in January!

## ***Calling the Emergency Services***

I hope we don't ever have to do this – but I've had to - or been in situations where somebody has had to! Although our walks aren't dangerous, we've had situations where existing medical conditions have taken a turn for the worse and we've needed medical assistance. Often a phone call isn't possible due to lack of signal but it may still be possible to text emergency services as texts use less bandwidth and can get through where a voice call will fail. You'll need to pre-register your mobile so go to <http://www.emergencysms.org.uk/> and register. The text can go either to 999 or 112.

## ***A new Chief Executive***

Vanessa Griffiths has been appointed as our new Ramblers GB chief executive. More details can be seen on the national web site.

## ***Project Walks: St Illtud's Walk & Irish Ferry Walks***

Swansea Ramblers, in conjunction with Neath Port Talbot Ramblers and Llanelli Ramblers have relaunched St Illtud's Walk, a route from Pembrey Country Park to Margam Park, taking in some stunning scenery on the way. So far we've had coach trips to do the first five sections from Pembrey to Resolven and next year on the summer programme we'll complete the journey to Margam by doing the final two sections on 10th June and 15th July 2017. Thank you to Richard Beale for organising these walks.

Dave Bird has been leading the way west towards Fishguard on a series of walks across Wales, many of which used the train. So far there have been 6 sections completed and participants have reached Manorbier.

## ***Weekends Away 2016***

The weekend away in April was a resounding success when we stayed at Leominster to enjoy the area. This October, (14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>), we are going to Dunster in Exmoor and again a lot of members have booked to join us there.

## ***Christmas***

Yes! I know it seems a long way away but we had to book the King Arthur about two years ago to make sure we got the venue! Everybody enjoyed the meal last year and don't forget there'll again be a walk before the meal to work up an appetite. Don't risk disappointment! Use the enclosed booking form to reserve your place. Plus - don't forget the Bethlehem walk on 17<sup>th</sup> December when afterwards, we'll have carols and food in the pub.

## ***Socials***

We continue to enjoy events organised by our social secretaries, Myra Lewis and Joanne Craddock. We thank them for their work and look forward to more in the future. Also, a special thanks to Steve and Julia Robson who let us into their idyllic home in Green Cwm for our summer garden party; over 50 members enjoyed a sunny afternoon and an Indian pop-up kitchen.

## ***Footpaths***

If there is an issue with a footpath, contact Bob Denley and he can discuss the problem with the council. Please do report problems as most people don't and these things never get resolved unless somebody flags up a problem!

## ***Work Party***

Steve Robson coordinates our path clearance work party that goes out every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday to assist the council in keeping our paths clear. If you would like to volunteer to help clear paths, please contact Steve.

## ***Keeping in touch***

If you're not registered with us for emails, you are missing out on details of socials and programme updates. Please let us know your email address and we'll add you to our list.

## ***Our AGM Meal, Walk and Social***

About 30 people enjoyed last year's AGM, meal and walk at the Greyhound Inn at Oldwalls in Gower. We'll be visiting the venue again this year on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October and once more there will be a choice of a long or a short walk before the meeting and the meal. The AGM information is enclosed, including the nomination form for new committee members, the agenda and our secretary's annual report. The minutes will be available on the day and a copy will be emailed to those who have registered their email address with us.

Andrew Morgan

The following information is provided by our publicity officer, Richard Beale:

## Walk Finder

In previous editions of the Newsletter, I have explained how this can be used. To recap briefly, this is a feature on the Ramblers GB website which enables members to search for group walks and self-guided routes in a particular area such as within a given radius of your home or holiday address. Use the section, 'Where do you want to walk?', then you can filter results by type of walk etc.



Now, you can also use part of the Swansea Ramblers website to find the location of the meeting point and start point of the walk and other information by using the drop down menu highlighted here. This is particularly useful if you are not familiar with using grid references.



## Walk Leaders Checklist

On the Ramblers GB website there is a very useful item called Walk Leaders Checklist. This suggests what you should do before the walk and on the day itself as well some basic first aid information. This can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/j4bbtfq> along with advice for walk leaders. A pocket size laminated version can be obtained from Swansea Ramblers' Secretary, John France: Tel:01792-547539. Or email: [SecretaryATSwanseaRamblers.org.uk](mailto:SecretaryATSwanseaRamblers.org.uk) (Replace AT with @)