



RAMBLERS

Taff Ely

Sunday 3rd April Southerndown, Broughton, Cwm Nash and beach walk.

Led by Tony Lawrence.

On Sunday 3rd April twenty-five walkers and four dogs congregated at Dunraven Bay car park for a nine-mile walk. The day started with a little good fortune (We were saved the cost of parking due to the late arrival of the car park attendant who generously waved the fee). More relevant to the walk was the sunny weather which stayed with us for the walk duration.

We set off to walk S.S. East along the coast. On route we passed through the gardens of the former Dunraven estate. Moving on, the coastal path gave amazing views over the rocky Glamorgan Heritage Coast and the two beaches of Treath Bach and Treath Mawr. At the time the beaches were under the ocean but the tide was on the turn.

The route then gradually descended the northern side of Cwm Mawr before climbing out along the southern edge to regain the coastal path. Soon after we walked above the next small valley of Cwm Bach and then across field to a minor road. After a short walk along the road, we entered a small woodland (Woodland Trust) for a tea/coffee break. The route continued through the woods to a road that took us on to Broughton, Monk Nash and eventually the beach via Cwm Nash. The tide was now at its lowest. The smooth rocks provided seating for our lunch while the four dogs were enjoying the freedom of sands.

continued on next page...



April

With a record breaking dry April, all the mud dried up and it was sunscreen and sunhats needed rather than waterproof clothing. Our first weekend away since 2018 was a huge success but unfortunately the dreaded Covid claimed a few of our group, who were missed.

This month sees the start of our Thursday evening walks which the programme has been sent out for, let's hope this wonderful weather continues right through the summer.

This month's Social Event a History Walk & Talk has been pushed into June, on the 11th as it will enable us to access into the church which is usually closed to the public.

Lunch over we negotiated the 3.5mile beach walk (alternating sand and rock) back towards Dunraven. A sharp (artery testing) climb out of the beach and a short, grassy walk took us back to the car park. Refreshments and a chat at The Three Golden Cups, Southerndown ended the day.





Saturday 9th April Walk to Coedely past old colliery workings led by Derek Acock

Just 9 people were in attendance with many of the Saturday Strollers away in Bradford-on-Avon, as it was a Saturday we were able to start from the car park at the Royal Glamorgan Hospital.

The first part of walk took up the route of the old railway line that ran from Pontyclun to Clydach Vale. Part of this former line up to the bottom of Coedely was cleared and a tarmac footpath was formed around about 8 years ago. At the end of this footpath, we then walked on the road below the former Coedely colliery and Coke ovens which were closed in around 1986. We did not walk the whole length of the road but at around 11.15 started to make our way back down the way we came, but when Ynsmardy was reached we deviated and walk past the houses and eventually made our way back along the front of the hospital and into the car park. The length of the walk was around 4.5 miles, there was no stiles or mountains to climb and underfoot conditions were all on a tarmac surface and arrived back at 12.10pm.



RAMBLERS

WEEKEND AWAY

Taff Ely

Friday 8th - Sunday 10th April in Bradford-on-Avon

Our weekend began at Castle Combe for a 5 mile circular walk in this beautiful chocolate box style village. We started in hailstones but 1 mile in the skies cleared and it turned out to be a lovely day.

It wasn't far to travel to our accomodation for the weekend, the lovely Georgian Leigh Park Country House Hotel & Vineyard which overlooks the picturesque Wiltshire Downs and set just outside Bradford-on-Avon.



RAMBLERS

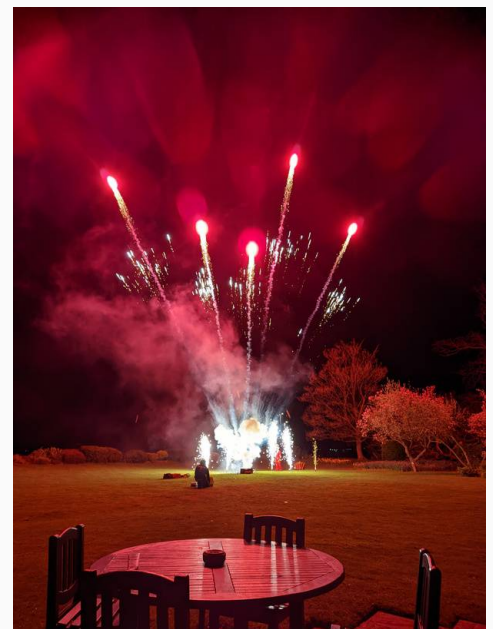
WEEKEND AWAY

Taff Ely

Friday 8th - Sunday 10th April in Bradford-on-Avon

On the sunny Saturday, we walked straight from the hotel for 9 miles through villages, fields and open countryside, taking in all the wonderful views. Meeting some ever so friendly horses and finished off with a cheeky stop at the Dog and Fox for refreshments at the end.

Despite there being a wedding at the hotel that day, everything ran as smoothly as the previous evenings meal, we had a fun Who's the Baby competition and were treated to an incredible fireworks display, courtesy of the wedding, on the front lawn.



RAMBLERS

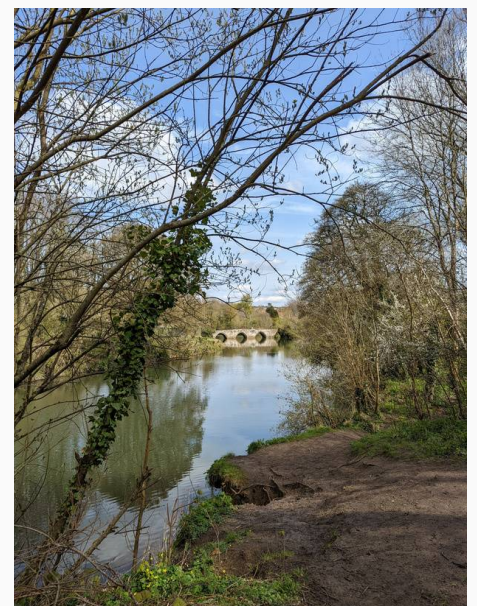
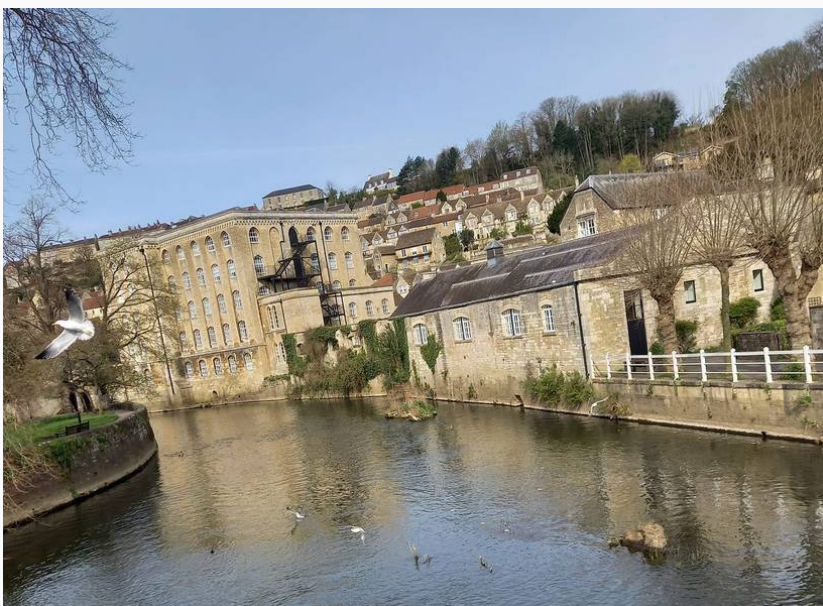
WEEKEND AWAY

Taff Ely



An early muster on the even sunnier Sunday got us checked out and all aboard the minibuses and deposited in the centre of Bradford-on-Avon. Giving people the freedom of exploring the beautiful town or joining the walk led by Tony Lawrence along the river and canal. Below is an excerpt of an email received by the committee from Janet Sully.

As for the walk on Sunday, that certainly exceeded expectations, with the tremendous sighting of two kingfishers posing beautifully, and one even demonstrating how to dive and catch a fish! Seeing that was beyond my wildest dreams.



A big thank you to our Chairman Brian who drove down to lead the 2 walks, Tony Lawrence who led our Sunday walk and the two wonderful drivers Andy and Gareth. (Great Hotel choice Gareth) for getting us there and back safely, Gareth for his choice in hotels and organising use of the two minibuses.

Easter Sunday 17th April Crickhowell, Tretower and the Glan Usk Estate following the Beacons Way led by Michelle Mansell.

On a sunny Easter Sunday morning, 18 fellow walkers and one dog joined Dukey and I for a walk along part of the Beacons Way from Crickhowell. There were a lot of spring lambs in the fields on our ascent and we had great views of Table Mountain, Sugar Loaf and even Pen-Y-Fan in the distance. Due to the recent good weather, there was very little mud along the Beacons Way (yes, I know it's not a proper walk without any mud).



We descended to Tretower using quiet lanes and footpaths, with some enjoying a ride on a swing attached to a tree (lots of photos were taken of this frivolity). We took advantage of the benches at the church and village hall for our lunch stop. One of the group enquired at Tretower Court and Castle if they could use the facilities in the grounds (as it would be some time until we reached any cover). They very kindly agreed and those who went in expressed their gratitude at the cleanliness and availability of toilet roll (a luxury). The hosts were very friendly and explained about the new visitor centre being built on the opposite side of the road (to be opened very soon, although the date has been moved forward several times).

Later, we used the permissive path through the Glan Usk Estate and admired the extensive grounds (and more spring lambs), chatting to the resident at one of the lodges. We crossed the canal and joined a narrow path which ran parallel to the canal but we had to climb over two tree trunks. I demonstrated how to not to climb over a tree trunk by catching my leg on a small pointed branch. After hopping for a few seconds, I could hear some wag asking if anyone had a needle and thread! I decided a small plaster would do the job. We rejoined the canal and had a short break for a sit down and a drink, admiring the various boats going past (not all narrow boats). Further along the canal, we admired a Giant Sequoia tree with a very wide trunk. We left the canal and walked past Llangattock through fields and woods before crossing the river to arrive back at Crickhowell.



Saturday 23rd April Creigiau Circular led by Sue Bowker

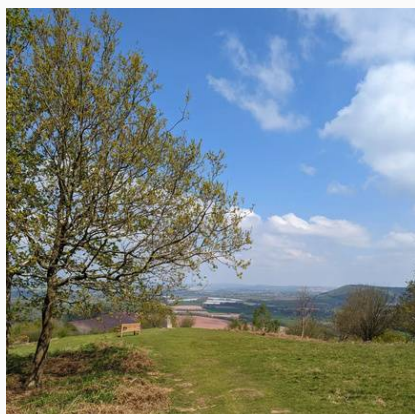
16 walkers turned up on Saturday 23rd April for a short circular walk from Creigiau to Pentyrch and back. The morning was slightly overcast but stayed dry providing good conditions for walking. The highlight was walking through the woods towards Canada Lake as there was a wonderful carpet of bluebells which we all stopped to admire.



Sunday 24th April Goodrich Castle, Coppet Hill and River Wye to Kerne Bridge led by Derek Willis



Our group of 23 met at Goodrich Castle to follow a route already described in Ramblers Routes of about 9 miles. After leaving the access road to the car park we made our way up the slope to the trig point on Coppet Hill, from which we could enjoy the first of many glorious views over the river Wye and surrounding plain, including over Goodrich castle itself. After walking over the ridge of the hill and through woods we descended to the riverbank opposite Symonds Yat and could see the viewing point above us and then the cliffs on which peregrine falcons nest. Thereafter we followed the path along the riverbank, stopping for a welcome lunch break at the church and youth hostel at Welsh Bicknor before continuing to Kerne Bridge and subsequently back up to the castle car park.



During the day we had excellent weather and the pleasure of a varied landscape including hills, cliffs, woodland and a constantly changing riverbank scene. Throughout the day there was a lot of varied wildlife to observe including many wild flowers such as orchids, cowslips and veritable carpets of wild garlic and bluebells. Amongst the many birds observed were common ones such as swans, geese, ducks, but more interestingly, my first sighting of a swallow this season, an egret in the river, a buzzard and many more heard but not seen. On the latter note during one of my earlier reconnoitres I was lucky enough to encounter a female deer and her fawn in the woods on Coppet Hill, but sadly, not on our group walk.



The good weather and the general attraction of this area brought out many other walkers following similar routes to us. On the river a considerable number of people were paddling canoes or kayaks downriver in the strong current. Indeed, the river can be treacherous and we passed a monument to John Warre, a sixteen-year old who drowned in "The Deceitful Stream" over 200 years ago. However, on this day both the landscape and the river were a joy and we had a most enjoyable walk.

Trevor Whatley 1928 - 2022

Trevor joined Taff Ely Ramblers in 1993 and was elected joint footpath officer in 1995 along with Tony Yule. He also volunteered with Geoff Williams for footpath maintenance work with Caerphilly Mountain Service mainly building stiles and clearing paths in the North Cardiff and Caerphilly areas. Having always been a knowledgeable walker he led over 70 walks for our group between 1994 and 2006. Unfortunately after illness robbed him of his driving license he could no longer meet at our Leisure Centre so he then caught a bus to Cardiff to walk with Cardiff Ramblers continuing as a walk leader. He also worked as a Scout leader and was very active at Nantgarw China Works and Museum. It was pleasing to see members of both Ramblers' groups at his funeral in Glyn Taff Crematorium.



Historical Talk Around Old Llantrisant

Led by Janet Sully on June 11th
at 10.15am from Gwaunruperra Rd Car Park

Llantrisant is a small town with a BIG history.

We will take a 2.5 mile walk around Old Llantrisant and the Graig, including a visit to the church which usually isn't open to the general public.

The restored Guild Hall will be our last stop where a light buffet will be provided and the licensed bar will be open.

Cost is £5, payable on the day.

To reserve your place please email or text me
hthomas247@gmail.com mob 07540158398

May Walks

Sunday 1st

Abersychan (East of) led by Tony Yule 9 miles
M+

Thursday 5th 7pm

Walk to Creigiau 4 miles L

Saturday 7th

Llantwit Fardre bluebell walk led by Eileen
Howells 4.4 miles L

Sunday 5th

Goldcliff from Redwick Church led by Derek
Willis 9 miles M

Thursday 12th 7pm

Tyn-y-coed and Pentyrch walk led by Tony Yule
5 miles M

Sunday 15th

Pennard in the Gower led by Gareth Bissett 9
miles M

Thursday 19th 7pm

Merthyr Mawr dunes and sunset t the beach 3.5
miles M

Saturday 21st

Pencoed circular walk led by Rob Young 4.4
miles L

Sunday 22nd

Talybont reservoir, Trefil Quarry and Pant y
Greigiau led by Steve Crave 11 miles M+

Sunday 29th

Llantwit Major circular walk led by Tony
Lawrance 9 miles M

Don't forget you can get information at
anytime on our website www.taffelyramblers.org.uk
or our Facebook page.