



# RAMBLERS

## Taff Ely

Sunday 1st May Abersychan (East of) from a leader's perspective..

Led by Tony Yule.

I felt this was a lovely walk when I walked with Penarth Ramblers in June 2018; the leader agreed I could use it for our group.

Made slight change to route during a recce in October 2019 but then cancelled the group walk due to bad weather.

The walk was again selected for group in July 2020 but cancelled due to Covid-19.

Walked the route in June 2021 having found, on the map, a way around last descent but turned left too early.

Found the route I wanted on a recce with a friend from Church on a beautiful day in April 2022. Views were crystal clear in all directions. However we had to climb over an electric fence and locked gate. Informed Torfaen Council's footpath officer who arranged for their Ranger to inspect the site.

After over a month of dry weather I watched the forecast deteriorate as the date approached and wondered how many would turn up on a wet bank holiday weekend.

With trepidation (the Met Office indicated 80% change of rain for whole day) meet three others at Llantrisant Leisure Centre and six more at the start. My fears were unfounded; we only encountered a misty rain on the final return to Abersychan.

While we crossed the boggy Mynydd Garnlochdy I had to keep checking that the entire group was still visible. I had a fright when someone had a succession of slips on a rock but recovered before falling.

continued on next page...



## May

Well what a wonderful month of walks, 10 in all! Coast, country, hills and mountains, over a wide area and with great turn outs and some new faces too.

Glorious weather and some not so glorious, mizzly rain and mist but thankfully all the coastal walks were dry and sunny.

No Social this month as it was pushed forward to June 11th and the same week we will have our 2nd visit to Cwmbach Wetlands and see whats been happening there.

The views were disappointing being limited to occasional views of nearby valleys. Torfaen Council had not managed to improve access and one walker received a jolt from the electric fence and all needed to climb a difficult gate. No further mishaps so it is with relief that I got the group back to the start and can relax with a pint at the town's White Hart.



# Summer Evening Walks

Throughout the summer we take advantage of the lighter evenings and add a Thursday evening walk to our programme.



This year's was kicked off by Martine & Geraldine leading 31 walkers (see cover photo) around Rhiwsaeson and Creigiau.

Spotting some llamas and beautiful wisteria along the way.



On Thursday 12th it was Tony L's turn, a circular walk of Pontypridd and Ynysybwl. Fields of green, bluebells, luscious trees, stiles, woodland, rain, lambs, cows and of course, stunning views!



The coast was our next destination, Merthyr Mawr sand dunes on a lovely evening.

Filming of the series Plebs meant we couldn't take our planned access to the dunes but with so many different routes it wasn't long before we reached the sea.



Thursday 26th May.

Seven intrepid ramblers joined me in Creigiau surgery car park, kitted out in hats, gloves and full waterproofs. To be fair, most of them had phoned to check the walk was going ahead if it rained. I think I must have seen an optimistic weather forecast! Anyway, we had a brisk 2-hour walk taking in the old railway line from Creigiau, Tyn-y-Coed woods and some fields of long grass. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, including a potential new member, even though we returned bedraggled to the cars.

Let's hope I get better weather for my planned Sunday walk in July!

Sue





### On Saturday 7th May Eileen Howells led a bluebell walk in Llantwit Fadre.

It was a beautiful morning which really showed the bluebells in all their glory.



### Sunday 8th May Goldcliff from Redwick Village. Led by Derek Willis

We were a group of 16 and met at the church in the village of Redwick, just east of the Newport Wetlands, to follow a circular route of about 8.5 miles.



After leaving the village we followed a road west past Mead Farm, which supplies farm food directly to customers, and then we started crossing fields on our way to the hamlet of Whitson. With the late spring flowers and trees in bloom this was a very pleasant countryside section. However, the numerous stiles and footbridges over drainage ditches meant it took a long time to negotiate. Luckily, there has been a lot of renovation of these paths as part of a move to promote walking over the whole Gwent Levels region, so most of the route has no obstacles to overcome. During this section we came across pheasants, various waterfowl such as ducks and geese, as well as the livestock on the farms.

From Whitson we had to walk beside a road for about a mile before again crossing fields to eventually reach the village Goldcliff. A quiet lunch in the churchyard in the shade was followed by a walk down to the defensive seawall dyke. Following this alongside the Severn estuary in the increasing warmth felt like summer had already arrived. If I had followed my own advice and taken binoculars I would have clearly seen the waders on the shoreline, although certain of them could be identified by their cries.

continued on next page...

As we approached Redwick, a grey heron was spotted in a drainage ditch close to us. However, more unusual birds weren't visible, probably put off by the large numbers of people out enjoying the views and good weather.

Ending the walk with a relaxing drink at the local pub completed a most agreeable day out.



### Sunday 15th May Pennerd Cliffs. Led by Gareth Bissett

After a night of heavy showers, we arrived a Llantrisant LC to bright warm sunshine. A number of cars set off for the drive to Pennard and the National Trust car park. We arrived to be greeted by Linda and Terry (Muddy Boots Ramblers), David and Janet (Llanelli Ramblers), Vesna (Swansea Ramblers) and Lynda a new member in our own group. The weather conditions were slightly different at the start of the walk, it was not possible to see the Devon coast due to a cloudy haze.

The 25 walkers were briefed on the walk indicating that it was a 9 mile walk in the figure of eight, leaving the carpark and heading to Caswell Bay along the coast and returning to the start. The second leg would be heading to Oxwich Bay. The group took the coastal path and on the top of the cliff we quickly reached a photo opportunity of Oxwich Bay. We quickly dropped down to the top of the rock outcrop at sea level, the ascent to the clifftop ensuring that everyone was warm, and ready for a coffee break at the top.



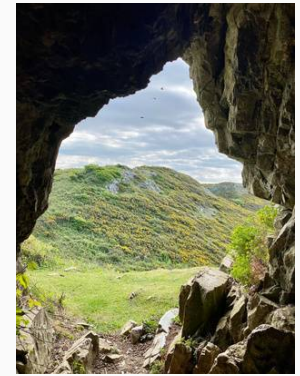
The cliff top walk along Pwlldu Head followed the coastal path, an attempt to use a path along the edge of the rock outcrop to the beach resulted in the group abandoning the route due to heavy undergrowth. We retraced our steps to the coastal path resulting in another climb. The planned route to Pwlldu Beach was a steep decent and returning along the same path. A small number of the group did not relish another steep ascent and opted to wait at the top of the climb for the groups return from the beach.

During the lunch break David and Janet from Llanelli Ramblers advised that there was a smugglers path from the beach that had a gradual incline, David volunteered to lead the group on the alternative route. We abandoned the walk along the beach.

continued on next page...

I checked my medical pack to see if I had an eye pack to try to re-enact the dress of the smugglers, unfortunately no eye patch was available. The smugglers route is highly recommended as the banks of the stream were covered with wild garlic and the smells and sights were fantastic. The gradual climb to Southgate in the tree lined path was certainly easier than the planned route, local knowledge was enjoyable.

We returned to the cars for a short break when most of the group left their packs behind before heading to Three Cliffs Bay. Tony offered to take the group around Three Cliffs Bay, the majority of the group decided to opt for a pint in The Southgate pub. David advised that there was a book available called Pwlldu Remembered and it is available for £19 off the internet.



**Saturday 21st May Rob Young led 17 strollers on a leisurely walk of 4.5 miles around Pencoed and the Millennium woods on a sunny Saturday morning .**



### Sunday 22nd May Talybont reservoir, Trefil Quarry and Pant y Greigiau led by Steve Craven

21 Ramblers (incl. myself) met at Blaen Y Glyn Uchaf car park for my first ramble as walk leader. Driving further into the Beacons, I was slightly concerned about the low misty drizzle that was forming as I wanted to share how spectacular the walk can be. I needn't have worried!

Our 11-mile walk began on the Taff Trail while a bicycle race was going on, meaning we had to continuously listen out for bells and calls from the riders. This was initially quite off-putting along with the rain and early nerves, but it soon passed, and we were able to continue in a more relaxed fashion. After just under three miles, we took our first ascent up towards Brinore Tramroad, passing the rear of the colossal Talybont Reservoir while the sun was trying to break through, but not quite there yet.

It was then I decided to take an earlier break under a line of trees sheltering the path, which worked out well because some 15 minutes later, a larger break of light came through, and by the time we reached the tramroad, it felt like a different day! Coats soon came off and the mood of the group was lifted. We were now in the open countryside walking through farmland overlooking rolling fields of green down below.



All niggling early doubts had now dissipated. We continued through what would have once been a thriving forest, before the first steep incline towards the disused quarry in Trefil (the highest village in Wales). Mouths were agape at the task, but everyone got through it without fuss. If it had already been a picturesque walk so far, it was about to get more so.

We continued up and around the quarry before settling next to 'The Naughty Stone' on the quarry's edge, with spectacular views looking over the Brecon Beacons and further afield, The Black Mountains. With tummies full and reenergised, I then took the pack to a large blue lagoon, deep within the quarry's surface; and it was nice to see the pleasantly surprised faces as I don't think anyone expected it.

continued on next page...





The last third of the walk would become more obvious as we left the quarry and over a large moorland before our last steady ascent towards the summit of Pant y Creigiau, where we took photos and admired the scenery, most notably Pontsticill Reservoir; the gargantuan peaks of Pen-y-Fan, Corn Du and Cribyn; the aforementioned Talybont Reservoir; and views for miles. In fact, had the weather been much warmer, the views would not have been as clear or extraordinary, so it turned out really well. After a steep descent, we made our way back to the car park. A few of us enjoyed a cold refreshment at The Aberglais pub down the road in Pontsarn, after what I felt was a very enjoyable and successful day's walking. Thank you all for your company and support.



## Sunday 29th Llantwit Major circular walk. Led by Tony Lawrance

The last Sunday walk for May 2022 started at the Town Hall car park Llantwit Major. Twenty-eight walkers were lucky to have a fine day as we made our way to the coast through the green vegetation of Church Lane. Along the coast path we negotiated the pebble strewn Tresilian Bay and continued on to St. Donat's Bay for our first break. The route continued on to the Nash Point Lighthouse complex and further on, the small Nash Point café. Here there was an enforced stop for the walk leader (and others) to purchase an Ice Cream. continued on next page.



We then walked through the delightful Cwm Marcross, crossing and recrossing Marcross Brooke on stone steps. Once out of the cwm the route passed the Holy Trinity Church near Marcross before joining a footpath heading east to St. Donat's and the vicinity of Atlantic College.



After a lunch break at St Donat's Church we returned along the coast to Llantwit Major and liquid refreshments at one of the local hostelryes. This nine mile walk is available to download and self-lead on the Valeways web-site.




**RAMBLERS**

**Taff Ely**

### RETURN TO CWMBACH COMMUNITY WETLANDS NATURE WALK & TALK

**7pm Thursday 9th June**

OUR GUIDE, NEIL WROBLEWSKI WILL TAKE US ON A 2.5 MILE GUIDED WALK OF THE WETLANDS AND SURROUNDING AREA. IT WILL BE A CHANCE FOR US TO SEE THE CHANGES OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS AND MEET THE MANY NEW ARRIVALS.

PARKING BEHIND THE ROCK INN,  
ABERAMEN CF44 6RB

We will be asking for donations to enable them to continue, carrying out their great work in maintaining the wetlands area.

To book your place please  
Text or email Hayley on  
07540158398 hthomas247@gmail.com

## June Walks

### Thursday 2nd 7pm

Tyn y Coed and Pentyrch led by Tony Yule 3 miles M

### Saturday 4th

Bryngarw Country Park led by Martine & Geraldine 4-5 miles L

### Sunday 5th

Heol y Cwe led by Peter Law 7.5 miles M+

### Thursday 9th 7pm

Cwmbach Wetlands led by Hayley & Andy 2.5 miles L

### Sunday 12th

Peterson Super Ely to St Fagans led by Tony Lawrence 10 miles M

### Thursday 16th

Talbot Green led by Lisa Burton 4.5 miles M

### Saturday 18th

Kenfig Pool and Burrows led by Brian Morgan 5 miles E

### Sunday 19th

Llanwunno circular from Porth led by Andy & Hayley 10.5 miles M+

### Thursday 23rd

Craig y Allt Circuit led by Tonu Yule 4 miles M

### Sunday 26th

Usk and Gwehelog Common led by Tony Lawrence 9 miles M

Don't forget you can get information at anytime on our website [www.taffelyramblers.org.uk](http://www.taffelyramblers.org.uk) or our Facebook page.