



RAMBLERS

Taff Ely

**Saturday 4th June Bryngarw
Country Park.**

Led by Martyne & Geraldine

June

Another walk filled month, a revisit to Cwmbach Community wetlands and a very well attended Social event for Janet Sully's History Walk & Talk.

Typical British summer weather has given us very varied walking conditions but all walks have been well attended.

The Thursday evening walks have proved very popular and has given new Walk Leaders a chance to cut their teeth , so to speak.



Nine Saturday Strollers went for a 4 mile walk around the beautiful Bryngarw Country Park in Bridgend on a lovely sunny Saturday.



Sunday 5th June Heol y Cwe circular. Led by Peter Law

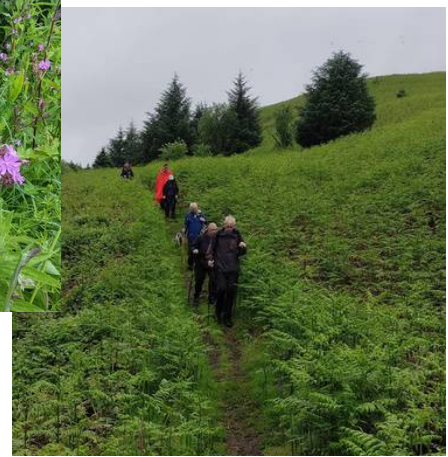
Originally scheduled for February 2022 but deferred due to storm conditions, the weather forecast for June 5th was also poor. In actuality we had light rain from 10.00am to 11.30am and once again from 1.30 pm, permitting both a coffee stop and lunch in dry conditions.

Given the weather forecast and also the incidence of the queen's jubilee weekend it was good to see a turnout of 12 walkers.

The first section of the walk unfamiliar to most of the participants, was a pleasant route sided by a stream, leading to a path through woodland which at each turn gave a false appearance of being blocked by vegetation when there was actually a way through to be found. Leaving by means of a stile we trudged to the left through a field of tall wet grass for 150 metres only to fail to locate the exit through a rusty old gate. Tony Yule came to the rescue by backtracking to the stile and exploring to the right whereupon he found said rusty old gate. Fortunately there were no further navigational problems!

We climbed to a coffee stop whereupon the rain stopped as if to order. Then skirting Mynydd y Gaer, we had a descent, steep and tricky in places (only the leader managed to fall on his behind – luckily to no ill effect) reaching Llwyn helyg. There was then road walking, tracking a stream on our right (the Ogwr Fach) followed by a 1.00 pm lunch stop in woodland and still in the dry!

Climbing out of the woods there was then a road walk back to Heol y Cyw, and for those that wished it, refreshment at The Plough. Having recced component parts of the walk on different occasions but not all of it in one go, the leader was relieved that the walk measured a little under 8 miles as planned!



Summer Evening Walks

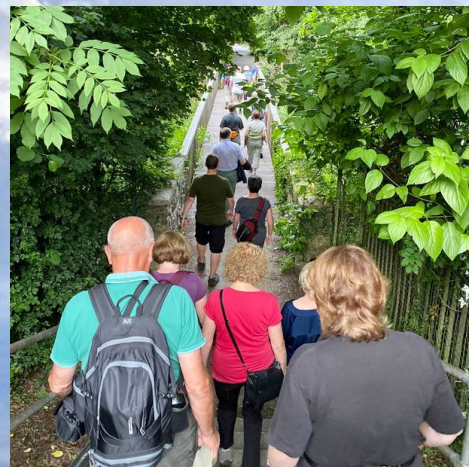
Throughout the summer we take advantage of the lighter evenings and add a Thursday evening walk to our programme.



Tony Yule led sixteen walkers past the remains of the garlic flowers in Tyn-y-Coed woods before crossing the fields to the outskirts of Pentyrch where we mingled with those going to the lighting of the beacon on the Garth. On returning to the woods a steep descent caused some concerns.



On Thursday 11th we had our 2nd visit of the year to Cwmbach Wetlands. Luckily the atrocious weather cleared for a lovely amble led by Neil with his incredible eyesight for spotting and identifying the myriad of birds tweeting around us.



25 people and a dog attended my first led walk for TER. We took a circular walk from Talbot Green to Pontyclun via community paths, fields and woods following Bunny Walk 2 for part of the way. Finished the walk with refreshments at Llantrisant Golf Club.

Lisa Burton



On the evening of the 23rd five leaders, Tony, Jan, Nicola, Tony and Jan, led thirteen people and a dog around Craig yr Allt following the instructions prepared for a Ramblers' Route. Ten stiles, 600ft of climb and the fact that much of the route was very overgrown resulted in it taking 2 hours and 48 minutes to complete the four miles.



Saturday 11th June History Walk & Talk Around Old Llantrisant. Led by Janet Sully

When Hayley asked me whether I would lead a historical walk, I was slightly anxious, as I thought I didn't have enough local history knowledge. The only area I knew anything like enough about was Old Llantrisant, thanks to volunteering weekly at the Guildhall. Another challenge was that this wasn't just another Ramblers walk; it was billed as one of the social events, and therefore needed to involve some refreshments and socialising as well. For me this aspect proved to be more problematic than the walk itself, as attempts to find a caterer for the Guildhall, or anywhere else to go for a reasonable cost, failed, so there was nothing for it but to organise the catering myself. And anyone who knows me well knows that the thought of doing any catering fills me with horror!

Having done my sums, made several trips to local food stores, established a time when the parish church could be opened for us and arranged for help with setting up the food at the Guildhall while I was leading the walk, I was very relieved that, on the day itself, the weather was kind to us. The number of participants had steadily built up, but it wasn't until we had all assembled that I knew that we were 31 in total. Would there be enough food? In the event, I needn't have worried. My commentary began outside the oldest part of the town, the church. After spending a short time inside, we moved on to the other two medieval buildings, the castle and the Guildhall. The nearby stone commemorating the Llantrisant longbowmen who fought at the Battle of Crécy provided the next obvious stopping-place. From there we walked to the outside of the oldest workhouse in Glamorgan, which seemed the best place to talk briefly about the poverty and diseases that beset the town at various points in its history. We proceeded to the malthouse (a very important building for a town which, at one time, boasted 27 pubs!) and then on down Heol Las to one of the ancient borough's boundary stones. To provide a certain amount of exercise, the walk then continued uphill via the Graig and eventually around the back of the castle to the Bull Ring and Dr William Price's statue.

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Here I gave some of the gory details of the bullbaiting and an outline of the life of the eccentric Dr William Price (the only Druid in the world to have a statue, apparently).

By then I think everyone was more than ready to go to the Guildhall for the buffet, which ended the trip.

This event would not have been possible without the support of a number of people. Hayley was constantly helpful and provided delicious bara brith and carrot cake for the buffet. The Guildhall Manager, Dean Powell, discussed with me possible routes for the walk. A number of volunteers at the Guildhall willingly helped with the last-minute food preparation I obviously couldn't do myself, as well as setting everything out ready, serving the drinks and helping to clear up afterwards. One collected the sandwich platters and another opened and locked up the church.

I am very grateful to

them all – and, of course, to all those who turned out to support the walk itself.

Janet Sully.



Sunday June 12th Peterson Super Ely to St Fagans. Led by Tony Lawrence

The walk started with a walk through Peterston-super-Ely village before heading north (after a little confusion by the leader) through fields and stiles to a minor road heading east. A kilometer along the road yet another stile gave access footpaths heading north across fields.



At the fourth field we stopped for our short "coffee" break. This was partly to consider our options because a large herd of frisky cows with calves were in the next field and since there was a dog with our party, we thought it wise to find an alternative route. Fortunately, something more urgent than chasing ramblers occurred to the cattle so they headed east and out of sight, presumably to the farm. The walk continued on to St Fagans, passing an attractive, ivy covered, ruined windmill on route.

After our lunch break overlooking the lakes in the grounds of St Fagans, the route headed to St Georges village and then south to walk through the lovely trees in the parkland of Coedarhydyglyn. The final section of the route returned across fields and tracks to Peterston-super-Ely and refreshments at The Sportsman's Rest.



Saturday June 18th Kenfig Pool and Burrows

Led by Brian Morgan

My walk was to go around the south side of Kenfig Pool, on through the sand dunes to Kenfig beach and then towards Sker house before cutting back inland, crossing the fairways of Pyle and Kenfig golf club and back to the start. Unfortunately, on the day, rain was forecast so I was tempted to cancel but instead I decided to go ahead with it. I would like to thank the seven brave souls who turned up and we decided to give it a try.

Initially, things were not too bad and the rain did stop for a while but just as we reached the coast it started to rain and also got a bit windy. We took a short break and the collective decision was made to cut the walk short so after walking a short distance along the coast path we cut back inland and returned to our cars by the shortest route possible. By the time we got back we were all very wet and thankfully called it a day after walking about 4 miles. This is a lovely walk so I hope to do it again for the Strollers but in better weather. Having returned home and dried out it was annoying then to see the weather brighten for the afternoon but that is how it goes sometimes.



Sunday June 19th Llanwunno circular from Porth

Led by Andy & Hayley write up by Janet Sully

Andy and Hayley led us on a quite challenging and lengthy walk (almost 11 miles) which they named the Porth - Llanwonno circular.

We had a great day, with wonderful views that made all the climbing worthwhile. We stopped for our first break after a long haul up from Porth.



Further on, we were surprised to find a small Visitor Centre (Caban Guto) among the trees, where some members of the group were unable to resist buying refreshments!



Most of the rest of the walk consisted of a series of undulations; there was not much level walking! We enjoyed a visit to a waterfall and our lunch at a small remote reservoir.



The variety of farm animals and wild flowers was remarkable. On our return to Porth, the trip was rounded off by a very welcome drink in the Rheola Hotel.

Many thanks to Andy and Hayley for such an exhilarating and varied walk.

Sunday June 26th L Lancarfen to Rhoose circular Led by Tony Lawrence

Twenty-four ramblers met at the attractive village of Lllancarfan for an 8.5 mile walk in the Vale of Glamorgan. The route took us through farm land (and stiles) to the village of Llantrithyd where we had our first stop in the grounds of St Illtyd Church.

We continued our walk on a minor road through Tre-Aubrey then crossed fields to Coed Arthur wood. On emerging from the wood we headed to the village of Llanbethery and from there to our main lunch stop in a field south of the village.

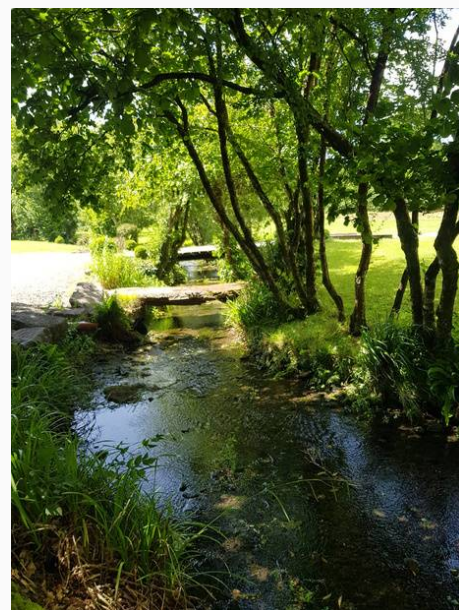


Here we were joined by two German Shepherd dogs who were not at all happy with the intruders lunching in a field they considered theirs. Dogs with their doggy intuition sensed our break was ending and left when we did.

Lunch over, the walk continued to Llancadle village and on through Castle Wood to pass Fonmon Castle. The route returned to Llancarfan through a steep sided valley.

The Fox and Hound, proved too big a draw to miss on a warm, summer afternoon so a chat and a drink among friends was a delightful end to the day.

P.S. A gentleman called Clive has joined us on a few walks and has been a quiet, pleasant companion. Clive was a native Welshman but now lives in Australia to where he will return in September. I won't disclose his age but Clive is a few years older than me. Glad he chose TER to walk with. Tony Lawrence.



Saturday Strollers

Martyne Hopkins who has been our Saturday Strollers walks coordinator for a few years is standing down from the role.

Previously, Martyne, a long time member of TER, has also served our group as a committee member and Chairperson so has had a long and distinguished career in ensuring our continued success. I would like to record our thanks on behalf of the group but I know that we will still see her out and about with us, enjoying the companionship that the group provides.

Of course, this now means that we need a new volunteer to fill the role. If you are a regular Strollers walker please consider whether you can help with this. The role entails the preparation of ongoing three monthly programmes of fortnightly walks that will be passed on to Tony Lawrence for publication.

SOCIAL

No social this month as we have the coach outing on Sunday 10th to Great Malvern.

I am in the process of organising Afternoon Tea for Saturday 20th August venue yet to be confirmed.

I hate mentioning Christmas so early in the year but we know how time flies... if anyone has any suggestions of venues that I could look at please let me know.

It is an evening function this year and I would like to go to our next committee meeting in September with 3 possible options.

Many thanks Hayley

July Walks

Saturday 2nd

Llantwit Fadre & Beddwe Wood Led by Derek Acock 3.5/4 m L

Sunday 3rd

Creigiau, Ceasars Arms and The Garth led by Sue Bowker 8.5 m M

Thursday 7th

Badger walk 6 Miskin circular Tony Yule 4m L

Sunday 10th

Coach outing to Malvern Hills & Town
2 walks available 9 miles M+ or 5 miles M

Thursday 14th

Pencoedcae led by Tony Lawrence 4.5 m M

Saturday 16th

Pencoedcae led by Tony Lawrence 4.5 m M

Sunday 17th

Cefn Bryn, Parc le Beres & Cilifor Top led by Tony Yule 11m M

Thursday 21st

Peterson-super-Ely Tony Lawrence 4m L

Sunday 24th

Pontnewynydd, Tranch and Mynydd Llanhilleth led by Michelle Mansell 9m M

Thursday 28th

Llanharan Geoff Williams 3-4m L

Saturday 30th

Ogmore and Southerndown 5m L

Sunday 31st

Carn Goch and Afon Swadde led by Derek Willis 10m M+

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