



**Taff Ely**

## Saturday 2nd July Llantwit Fardre & Beddau Woods

Led by Derek Acock

Starting from near the Ship Public house in Llantwit Fardre took the country road behind this pub and within about 15 minutes turned and went up through a wooded area and across a field to eventually emerge onto the main road. Then made our way to the disused railway bridge at the bottom of Beddau before turning and taking a path through the unofficial nature reserve, then followed a footpath which took us to a disused railway cutting and walking above it eventually emerged onto the main road. From there we followed the road in the direction of the bye pass but deviated up to the lower part of Beddau, however it started to rain and I decided to cut out part of the walk and to make our way over to the community path alongside the bye pass road.

By then it stopped raining and we made our way back to the start arriving just after mid-day, The length of the walk was just over 4 miles and about 12 people were on the walk but considering it had been raining up until 9.30 that morning this was more than I had expected.

**July**

Well what a month, with the highest temperatures recorded in the UK, often making rambling quite difficult and our much look forward to walk, down the Gower, actually being cancelled due to the extreme heat. Lets hope that gets back in our walk programme soon.

On the flip side, humid, drizzly and wet conditions have plagued some of our other walks!

Plus a very successful coach trip to the Malvern Hills where the dehydrated Water was much needed!!!

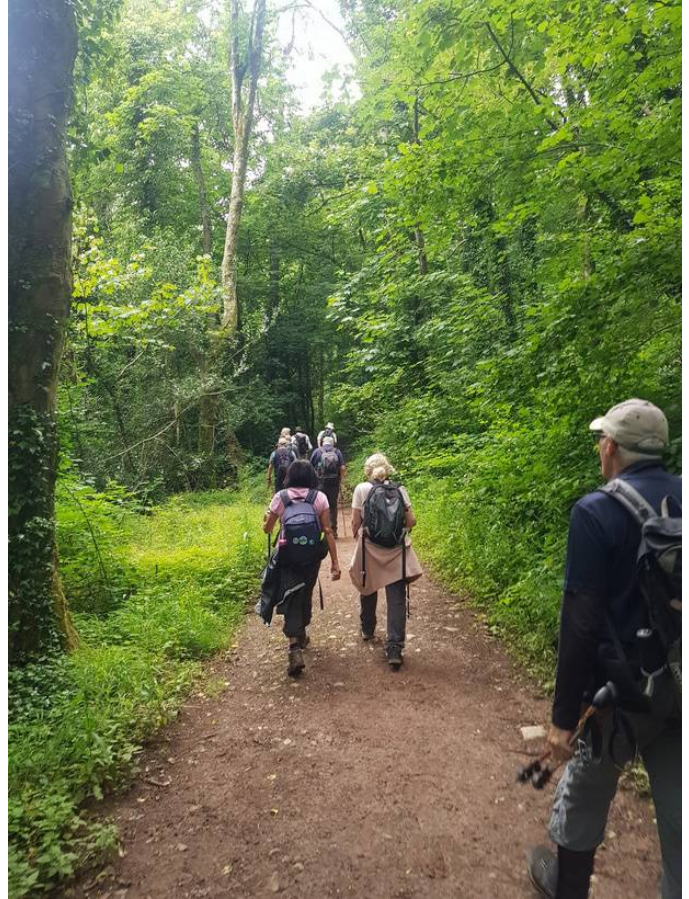


## Sunday 3rd July Creigiau, Ceasars Arms and The Garth led by Sue Bowker

Once again Sue started a walk from the Creigiau surgery car park. Rain threatened as we started but soon cleared.

The walk took us along the disused railway line, and then past Caesar's Arms and through fields to Efail Isaf. Some of the paths are infrequently walked, so the 3 pairs of secateurs we had with us were very useful! From Efail Isaf we went up the north side of the Garth and stopped for lunch on top. We skirted Pentyrch and Canada Lake to return to Creigiau where many of the group opted for refreshment in the garden of the Creigiau Inn.

Note from Sue: This walk was modified from the Ramblers Cymru Paths to Well-being programme, provisional walk 6, Garth Fawr. I walked it with the Ramblers Cymru leaders earlier in the year. It snowed!



# Summer Evening Walks

This years evening walks have proved a huge success due to the walk leaders providing varied walks and the exceptional weather.

In a collaboration between Ramblers' Cymru, Pontyclun Community Council and TER Footpath Maintenance Group, with grant money from the People's Postcode Lottery, published six Badger walks. However promotion of the sixth walk of the series has been delayed until a footpath diversion order has been confirmed and ground works completed. On this night's walk 17 people previewed the route chosen for this walk. Copies of the walk leaflets were distributed at the start.



Thursday 14th not an ideal situation to have the same walk within two days of separation but the leader's (Tony Lawrence) holiday arrangements necessitated a change to the programme. (Full write up in Saturday 16th walk report.)



Thursday Evening 21st July. The route started at Peterston-super-Ely and crossed the river footbridge to walk along the main avenue of the Wyndham Park estate. From here we followed fields, footpaths and tracks heading south to the vicinity of St. Nicholas. A short walk along the A48 took us into the village where we walked past the church and joined footpaths heading north. We soon entered fields of wheat. Fortunately the way through was made easy due trails made by tractor wheels. More fields of grass, footpaths and stiles took us on a gentle descent back to Peterston. Such a lovely, warm summer evening necessitated a visit to The Sportsmans Rest for a reviving drink.



For our final evening walk of this year Geoff Williams led 22 of us, we gathered together at the edge of the countryside area on the old Open-cast Mine area west of Llanharan on a fine, cool evening. We followed a wide circular route up over the central ridge and then down to one of the lakes at the far corner out towards Llanharry. From there we got onto the newly cleared (!) bridleway and followed this to where it meets the lane near Lanilid. Then we fought our way up a little path, and got onto the track that led us to the other lakes, though limited to viewing only one on this occasion. Then it was on up over the ridge - taking in the views of the ridge-way hills opposite - and back round to the start point at the top of Enterprise Way.



Sunday 10th July Coach trip to Great Malvern.  
The trip was organised by Derek Willis with support from Tony Lawrence, Tony Yule, Brian Morgan, Gareth Bissett to reconnoitre and lead the planned routes.

Due to covid 35 participants out of a possible 42 paid members attended on the day. 3 chose to take in the sights of Great Malvern, 8 brave, fit members did the long walk of 9 miles led by Derek and Tony Y, the remaining 24 did the shorter but by no means less arduous in the rising temperature, walk of 5 miles with Tony L, Brian and Gareth



Everyone including the coach turned up early and we made a prompt start at 8.00am. Our excellent driver, Graham from Edwards Coaches, took us to the first drop-off point near Ledbury at the Hollybush carpark on the southern end of the Malvern Hills. At this point it was already 18°C and the temperature climbed throughout the day and was 28°C at the end of the day when we left Great Malvern. Taking frequent drinks on the way it was possible to cope with the heat, but it was challenging. The route northwards covered most of the hills up to and including North Hill above Great Malvern, 11 in all.



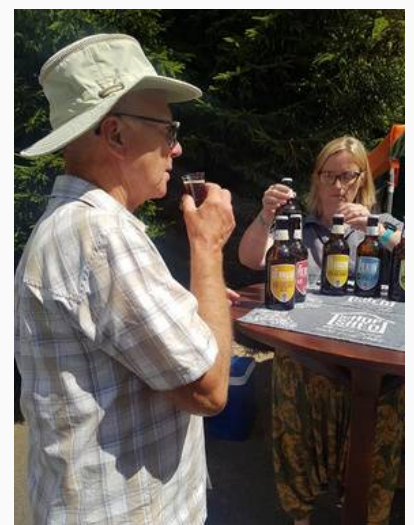
The views were spectacular across the plain looking east into England and west over to the north of the Brecon Beacons National Park and it was possible to make out Sugarloaf, Hay Bluff, amongst others.



Initially we ascended a hill to see an unusual memorial obelisk erected in 1812 to a son who was killed in action at Burgos during the Peninsula Campaign of the Napoleonic War. Thereafter through a mixture of woodland and then open hilltop, we reached the highest hill on the first section, the Herefordshire Beacon, also known as The British Camp, and climbed over the former iron-age hill fort. At this point there was a very welcome breeze.



The passage from there to the other Beacon was hard going, with lunch along the way on the aptly called Perseverance Hill. The highest point of all is on the Worcestershire Beacon, which has a memorial viewing compass-platform indicating all the main features on the horizon, but seeing those places indicated at 60+ miles away was a bit too much even on such a bright day as this. After the final ascent of North Hill, we descended to the town, where the attraction of a pint proved irresistible.



For those staying the whole day in Great Malvern there had been plenty of time to visit the Food Festival and then to see the Priory Church, town museum in the Abbey Gatehouse and enjoy the cafes and pubs.

We returned to the leisure centre on time and with a sense of achievement mixed with exhaustion.

### Saturday July 16th Pencoedcae

#### Led by Tony Lawrence

The walks started at the small housing estate north of Penycoedcae where on the Thursday evening we were joined by three guests from the immediate area. The route followed the Maindy Road for a kilometer before leaving to cross farmland and footpaths which eventually took us to the northern area of the former Coke Works. This was the half way point of the walk.



Here, the Saturday Stroller took a shorter route which reduced the time out by twenty minutes. Both walks ended by crossing an area of rough pasture land made easier by the dry weather. A short walk along Black Road took us back to the start. Thanks to everyone who accompanied me on the walks.

### Sunday July 24th Llanwunno Pontnewynydd, Tranch and Mynydd Llanhilleth led by Michelle Mansell

On a drizzly Sunday morning, 15 walkers and two dogs met in a car park near Pontypool, lots of waterproof gear was being worn. Ten minutes after setting off, the drizzle had stopped and some walkers took off their gear (I was getting rather warm) and then others took off their gear not long after this.

After some ascent through a mainly residential area, we joined a popular wide track and had our coffee stop at the memorial to the Llanerch and Glyn Pits mining disasters, with good views back towards Pontypool. Our secateurs came in handy on the path from here up towards the fields which led to the top of Mynydd Llanhilleth, with views towards Brynithel and Trinant. Unfortunately, it was too overcast to see Pen-y-fan. We then walked along some quiet lanes towards Cefn Crib. We couldn't visit the famous Blue Pool as it has been fenced off for many months (although there are often cars parked by the fence). continued on next page.



We had our lunch on a bank on Cefn Crib Common (with plenty of sheep nearby) before picking up the Pen-yr-heol Road (only a track along the common). We then picked up a track which went behind the houses of Pantygasseg with views down into Tirpentwys Nature Reserve. Next, we picked up a wide grassy path towards Tranch. Upon crossing a lane and going up some steps, our secateurs came in very handy again on a narrow path (and made the ascent slower but a lot less tiring)! However, the views from the top of this short climb were worth the effort (in my opinion) and we had another pit stop before our descent back to the cars. The drizzle returned a few minutes before the end of the walk but was short-lived. We all went to a nearby pub with plenty of seats outside and enjoyed a refreshing cold drink.



## Saturday July 30th Ogmore and Southerndown led by Martyne and Geraldine.

We had 17 on the walk from Ogmore to Southerndown. The walk followed the Ogmore River then along the cliff top to Southerndown. From there we walked through the village and came back via Norton village.



The weather was mixed with some showers which stopped our planned coffee break. When the weather occasionally cleared we had views over the Bristol Channel. Despite mixed weather everyone seemed to enjoy the walk and some of us went Ewenny Garden Centre cafe for a welcome cup of coffee.

## Sunday July 31st Carn Goch and Afon Swadde led by Derek Willis

We were a group of 11 intrepid walkers capable of finding this rather remote site about 7 miles from Llandeilo. The weather on the drive there and initially on the walk was wet but improved as the day wore on, and it was possible to see both to the North into Mid-Wales and later South across the Black Mountain. We started walking through the 2-hill fort, Carn Goch, the largest Iron Age hillfort in Wales, down through a wood and across fields to a road. After some road walking we reached the lowest altitude point and then followed the Afon Swadde upstream through woods as the river cut its way through a narrow gorge. There was a brief climb to reach the road crossing followed by the main sustained ascent through woodlands and along forestry tracks until we had a well-deserved break for lunch facing the Black Mountain and further East towards the Carmarthen Vans.

### Bethlehem West Wales



Distance  
10.21 mi

Elevation Gain  
1,697 ft



Another stiff climb through undergrowth up into the woods led to a centre, Pen Arthur, followed by a section of sustained path-clearance by Tony Yule leading to the highest part of the walk. Exiting the woods there were views North over the Hillfort up the Tywi Valley. This section of moorland led to a descent through more woodlands and fields to a road back to the start. The rampant flora included many wild flowers and many bracken, brambles and other obstacles. However, there were also red kites and other birds spotted during the day and then a relaxed drink in Sennybridge on the way back completed a full day out with not too many casualties!



# FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE TEAM

REPORT BY ROGER DINHAM

Due to my wrestle with covid, with its resulting consequences, and my recuperation holiday trying to avoid hitting canal barges in mid Wales, we were not able to do much after the 4th July.

When we did some maintenance I was delighted to see volunteers of up to six or eight members and we did useful work on clearing paths around Llantrisant, and tackling a stile repair and an overgrown path in Pontyclun's Badger Walk no 5.

National Resources Wales has asked me to help them with improving the protocols and proceedings in our relationship with them, which has often been difficult in the past. There were 16 pages of "does and do nots", much dealing with insurance issues or other issues that were beyond our ability to commit to. Other demands put total responsibilities on Footpath Maintenance Team managers for third party injuries, costs, diligence, competency and best practise, releasing any responsibilities that NRW might have!! Tony Yule has agreed to meet up with me to see what help and support we can give.

## SOCIAL

Sadly also due to covid I was unable to research a venue for afternoon tea which I intended to put in as August's social! I feel it is too short notice now and I will endeavour to organise for the first Saturday in September.

During our last committee meeting we were discussing ways of promoting our group and we came up with the idea of having business cards that all members can have and distribute when appropriate. I created the design on Canva and they arrived last week, please ask Tracey or myself if you would like to have some.



## August Walks

### Sunday 7th

Brynna Woods and Mynydd y Gaer led by Tracey Williams 9.5m M

### Saturday 13th

Radyr led by Lisa Burton 5m L

### Sunday 14th (Please note this a change to the walk programme)

Cefn Bryn, Parc le Breos and Cilifor Top led by Tony Yule 11m M

### Sunday 21st

Cat's Back (The Black Hill) Hay Bluff, part of the Offa's Dyke and the Ochlon Valley 10 m M+

### Saturday 27th

Pontyclun to Talygarn led by Martyne & Geraldine 5m L

### Sunday 28th

Caerau to Afon Argoed led by Gareth Bisset 10 m M+