



Taff Ely

Sunday 7th August Brynna woods and Mynydd Y Gaer Led by Tracey Williams

On Sunday 7th of August I was lucky to lead my fellow ramblers on my very own local walk passed my home and surrounding area which if I say so myself is beautiful. We started walking through Brynna woods which is a well known nature reserve then upto mynedd Yr Gaer with lovely views and lots of sunshine. We had 9.5 miles of fixing gates on route, shading by a stream for coffee , never passing a swing without having a go and some lazing in the sunshine for lunch (should we have woken him lol)

Quite a few four legged friends turned out for the walk and everyone enjoyed.



August

Well another sweltering month, with more walks cancelled due to the extreme temperatures!

Has it ever been known that the same walk has been cancelled twice in consecutive months?

Tony Yule's Gower walk seems destined not to happen!

Also the end of the Thursday evening walks which have been so well attended this year, I think we should say a huge thank you to all the walk leaders who provided these, many of them being the first walk they had led, a great way to cut your teeth, so to speak.

What walkers say & WHAT THEY MEAN

"Not far now"
No idea how far now

"This way!"
Possibly this way

"Just checking the map"
Absolutely panicking

"Cows are as afraid of us as we are of them"

I am much more scared than I am prepared to admit

"Pretty sure that's a Hawthorn"
Pretty confident you're out of 3G to check what it is

"Morning!"
I am normal. Let's not talk.

"Crisps?"
Take the plain so I don't have to

"Let's see if they do food"

We're having a pint here

"I've got a bit of chafing"
You may find the bathroom door locked tonight

"Imagine if I'd dropped the car key!"
WHERE is the SODDING car key?

"Fancy a cuppa?"
Suggest a pint. Suggest a pint. Suggest a pint.



Quite a few four legged friends turned out for the walk and everyone enjoyed.

Sunday 21st August Cats Back (The Black Hill) Led by Derek Wallis

Despite the challenging journey into the back of beyond, 15 determined members made it to the base of the Cat's Back hill near Longtown, Herefordshire. After the initial steep slope onto the start of the ridgeway we were rewarded with the first of many fine views over the ridgeway east into England and west across Hatterall Ridge. We continued along the Black Hill (the actual Cat's Back), past the trig point up until the path joined the Offa's Dyke Way.



Lunch was at Hay's Bluff looking across towards Hay on Wye and the northern escarpment at the edge of the Black Mountains. Up until this point it had been dry but overcast. We had just started returning along Hatterall Ridge following Offa's Dyke Way when a large dark cloud arrived and proceeded to engulf us in mist and rain for about an hour. Luckily, we came out of this cloud and the weather gradually improved for the rest of the day, allowing great views across the ridges of the Black Mountains westwards. After passing many stony cairns we arrived at the point marked on the OS map as "pile of stones", which had a small way-marker stone indicating the path down into the Olchon Valley below.



The path zig-zagged down the hillside and then descended through dense bracken, into which we disappeared completely, encountering a confused horse also apparently lost in the undergrowth. With a brief fight with woodland and overgrown paths we reached the road at the end and descended through a field to the footbridge over the river Olchon, before the final sting in the tail, the ascent back to the carpark. After nearly 6 hours we completed the 10 mile circuit and drove down past Longtown to a well-deserved pint at the Old Pandy Inn.



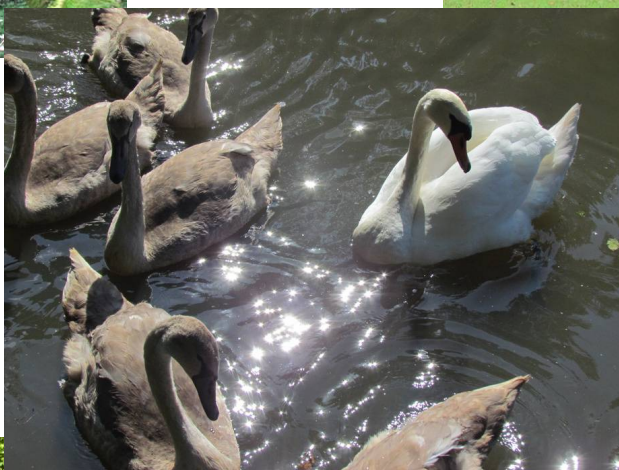
Saturday 27th August Pontyclun to Talygarn Led by Martyne & Geraldine

The walk was a bit of an adventure as when I had recce'd it a few days before, I found large areas of the river bank in Ivor Woods barred to walkers.

As it was very short notice to arrange another walk we set of to do a shorter version of the walk to Talygarn.

22 members walked through fields and woods on a lovely day and arrived at Talygarn lake to see a family of swans and cygnets and other waterfowl, and dragonflies zooming about. We had a short drink stop there and admired the view.

Derek Alcock was on the walk and he showed us an alternative, very pretty route through Talygarn woods coming back to Brynsadler and Pontyclun, which lengthened the walk to the original distance.



Sunday 28th August Caerau to Afon Argoed

Led by Gareth Bissett

What a shock to have a warm sunny day in the Maesteg area, unfortunately the best laid plans did not work out, everyone turned up with their tins of Aldi beans, only to find the toilets locked, I expect all enjoyed beans on toast for tea.

The 20 walkers set off after being introduced to Sarah and Kingsley (new starters) and welcoming Eleanor back after a period of recuperation.



We were pleased the farmer drove down the stone gully before we planned the gentleman forward, the ladies would have had a great surprise if it happened the other way around.



The group were nagged to take frequent water stops to rehydrate as the temperature caused everyone to perspire. We arrived at Afon Argoed visitor centre in good time where Colin made good use of the coffee shop to enjoy cake and coffee, I am sure he will update you about the cost on future walks. The children's play area caused some entertainment, a few members threatened to remove the clappers from the chimes.

The 750 foot rise slowed the pace of the walk, everyone reached the top where they devoured any remaining luncheon.

The views of the Maesteg and Neath and Port Talbot areas were spectacular.



I would like to thank Julie for her invaluable assistance on the recc on the wet Monday prior to the walk.



The event has drawn little interest so far and I have received quite a few apologies and unfortunately it is clashing with another event that several of our members are going to but you still have up to Saturday 10th September, when I need to confirm numbers or cancel the event.

Ramblers Cymru Campaign

#OurPathsOurFuture

"Put your foot down and make your mark"

T shirts are available to order in support of the opening of paths through Wales at a cost of £22.50. Order has to be placed as a group and the deadline is September 16th.

You can pay directly to our group by BACS s/c 608301 a/n 20182487 to The Ramblers Association (SW12) and Alison will then place the order.



September Walks

Sunday 4th

Pontypridd Circular led by Steve Craven 10m M

Saturday 10th

Porthkerry led by Janet Sully 4/5m L

Sunday 11th

Rhymney and Bryn Bach led by Huw Evans 7m M

Sunday 18th

Abercynon to Giant's Bite led by Andy & Hayley 10m M

Saturday 24th

Peterson-Super-Ely to St Nicholas led by Tony Lawrence 4m L

Sunday 25th

Bwlch and Llangorse led by Tony Lawrence 10m M+