



Taff Ely

Sunday 3rd September: St Brides Major to Southerndown and Ogmere led by Janet Sully

On a sweltering hot day, 25 Ramblers set off from the car park by the Milk Hut in St Bride's Major for a walk of about 8.5 miles. I was very glad to have obtained special permission from the farmer to park there as we hadn't even left before a young man on a tractor told us that we were on private property!

We walked through the village, past the large pond and then across Ogmere Down before descending to the river. The ruins of Ogmere Castle provided an ideal place to have a mid-morning break, and Kevin kindly produced Welsh cakes and Filipino buns to celebrate his birthday! We then walked through the dunes alongside the river to the coast, where we stopped to patronise the ice-cream van - very welcome on such a hot day.



September

Oh dear is it just me or did September just pass in a blur? Summer returned with a vengeance, with beautiful sunny days and high temperatures but 2 very wet days for Tony Y and Kevin's first led walk! A total injustice as 14 of us were away in sunny Montenegro where Danijela had again created a fantastic, if packed, itinerary of our tour of Montenegro, I have shared just a fraction of the many photos of us enjoying our time with her.

Janet led our second history walk from the beautiful Insole Court in Llandaff and we discussed doing the annual Glo Aur Walk next year (I know the date now) before finding out many interesting facts about the house, Llandaff and its notary figures.

The maintenance team are still going out on Thursdays, working through their list of repairs needed to keep our community paths accessible. Any support for this would be gratefully appreciated.



We continued along the coast path, soon leaving the hordes of day-trippers behind, and eventually stopped for lunch at Dunraven Bay. Some of the group went onto the beach, while others preferred the picnic tables or a spot in the shade.



After our break, we ascended to the top of the impressive cliffs of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast and the ruins of Dunraven Castle before returning to St Bride's uphill through a valley and across fields. The walk finished with drinks in the courtyard of the Farmers Arms right by the car park, and some of the group also made purchases at the farmer's Milk Hut!



Saturday 9th September: Llantrisant and the Billy Wynt led by Tony Lawrence.

Due to the problem of parking at the Llanfabon Inn in early September the two Saturday Strollers dates were changed from the published programme.

From the public car park at Heol y Sarn the walk headed through Llantrisant town to join the footpath leading up to the Billy Wynt. We then followed a route to the northern end of Llantrisant Common.

Fortunately, the ground on the common was not as muddy as expected as we made our way to the bridge over the infamous Muddy Pool. On return to the start and a change of footwear, a few members made their way to the Guild Hall to spend a pleasant hour chatting over cakes and coffee.



Sunday 10th September: Belinda's "3 P's" Pant, Pontsarn and Pontsticill
led by Belinda Adeva

On a very warm sunny day, 25 eager ramblers, including 2 welcome guests from Blackwood joined me in rediscovering my childhood playground, the villages of Pant, Pontsarn and Pontsticill. Leaving our cars at the Brecon Mountain Railway carpark (Pant Station). We walked through Morlais Limestone Quarry, just below the ruins of Morlais Castle.



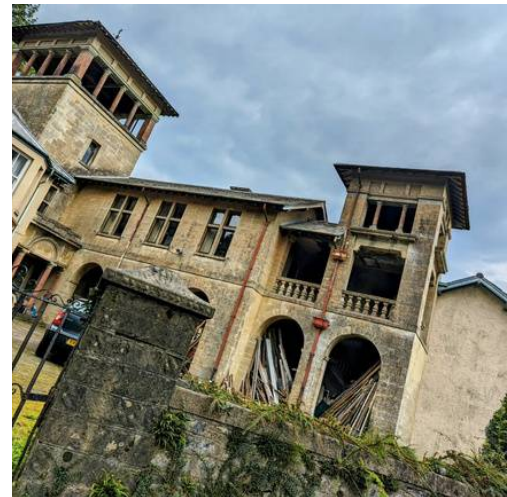
Stopping shortly at the old TB sanatorium, we had a brief history snippet of how patients beds were placed on the veranda's 365 days of the year 'to take in the fresh air of Pontsarn.

Next we made our way to the Blue Pool for our coffee break, under the 7 arches viaduct, while watching some wild water swimmers, brave the cold water of the Taf Fechan river. We then walked along the viaduct, where I shared photos of the steam trains crossing it in the 1920's with day trippers visiting Pontsarn.

Reaching Hy Brasail or the Italian House, as it is known locally. I shared the story of the solicitor who fell in love with an Italian Contessa while holidaying in Italy. So smitten he built an Italian style extension to his house, filled it with fine furniture and paintings... but sadly the Contessa never visited.

Using a shortcut to get to Vaynor Church, we met the present owner of Hy Brasail who was pleased to see us and answer questions about his unique property.

Leaving the Ironmaster Crawshays Grove at Vaynor Church we made our way through Pontsticill Village heading for Pontsticill reservoir, where I shared photos of how the village had looked before the reservoir was constructed.



We headed across to the dam, as it started raining heavily and were very lucky to be able to shelter and have our lunch in the quirky Brecon Mountain Railway cafe, nearly cleaning them out of welsh cakes. The toot toot was heard of an approaching steam train, thankfully the rain had stopped and everyone enjoyed watching the train pull into the station.





Our route back to the start point took us past the The Red Cow in, by which time the sun was shining and we were able to sit in the beer garden and enjoy a cool drink. I just want to say a BIG thank you to all the unseen work and support of the 'backstage' admin team. My recce and path clearance team of June, Kingsley and Alyson and you my 'rambler family', without who there would be no walk. It was lovely to share it, so thank you all who joined me and look forward to seeing you all on my next one!



Sunday 17th September - Bargoed, Rhymney River and Gelligaer Common led by Tony Yule

With a forecast of heavy rain from noon and many on the trip to Montenegro a small attendance was expected. Nine people plus two dogs set out at 10:24 in spots of rain that soon relented. On reaching the common at noon the leader gave the option of shortening the walk by walking around the edge of the common; this was rejected by the group with the majority refraining from giving an opinion.



Shortly afterwards heavy rain started that did not relent for the remainder of the walk. After Capel Gwladys (see group photo) the leader choose the road route to exit the common (no option given) but all agreed to forgo the lunch stop so that the walk ended at 14:00 exactly. So the leader claims the record for the smallest attendance and the earliest finish in 2023.

Saturday 23rd September: Llanfabon led by Tony Lawrence

On a fine day we parked at the Llanfabon Inn to start a four-mile circular walk across fields and minor roads. Turn out for the walk was a little disappointing, only five including the leader and his spouse. On route we skirted the grounds of Llechwyn Hall Hotel (venue of a TER Xmas dinner a few years ago). Further on we walked through the farm yard at Tai'r Heol to a chorus of barking dogs before returning to the start. Llanfabon Inn staff are always happy to allow the group to park for the two hour Stroller duration. As a thank you AND because it was such a lovely day we stayed for coffee and cake taken outside in the sunshine. (Greedy leader also had a glass of Butty Bach.)

Unfortunately no photo's from this walk.

Sunday 23rd September: Evanstown and Gilfach Goch and Ogmore Forest
led by Kevin King

Seven intrepid TER members (who didn't arrive late back from Montenegro the night before) set off in full rain gear on an 8.4 mile walk from Evanstown, uphill through a forest in the direction of Ogmore Vale. Luckily, at the top, the rain subsided and the mist cleared allowing views of the channel on the open desert to Glynngwr where coffee was had in the churchyard.



Refreshed it was back uphill through open countryside and lunch at the edge of the forest. More forest tracks led to the summit. A slight deviation on a path Tony Y knew took us back to the carpark and then on to the Griffin Inn where the regulars joined in the banter and photo taking.



Saturday 30th September: A City Within A City history walk in Llandaff
led by Janet Sully



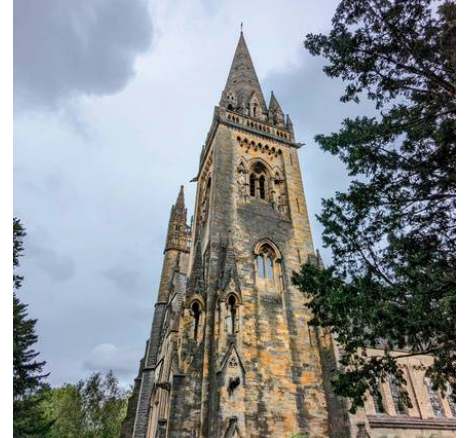
On the last day of September, a group of about eighteen assembled in the grounds of Insole Court, a Victorian mansion built for a wealthy coalmine owner and his family. After a very brief introduction to explain the title of the walk, the group listened to an



outline history of the Insole Court building and the families who lived there. We began our walk by looking at the memorial in the grounds to the 114 miners who died in the Cymmer Colliery explosion in 1856 as a result of James Harvey Insole and his agent's negligent management.



Then we proceeded to the heart of Llandaff village and looked at a few of the 19th-century terraced cottages tucked away in side streets as well as the old police station, complete with air raid siren on the chimney! On Llandaff Green we saw the plaque to Roald Dahl at the original site of Llandaff Cathedral School, the Bishop's Palace buildings, the ruins of the medieval bell tower and preaching cross, the war memorial and the life-like statue of James Rice Buckley (1849-1924), archdeacon and chair man of the parish council. Finally, as we were overlooking the cathedral, Janet gave a few brief facts about its history and pointed out a fragment of a gravestone that flew high into the air and ended up embedded in the pavement, the result of the bombing in January 1941.



Leaving the Green, we went for a short walk down past the cathedral and graveyard, along the River Taff and eventually back up to see the ruins of the medieval Bishop's Palace, the old buildings tucked away on Chapel Street, the former St Michael's Theological College and a few other historical features. Outside the site of "Mrs Pratchett's Sweet Shop", described by Roald Dahl in his autobiography, the group listened to an excerpt which told the story of "the Great Mouse Plot".

After all that history, everyone was ready to enjoy the buffet lunch and socialising back at Insole Court, which Hayley had organised. It was a very relaxing way for the group to end the visit. Some even stayed on to look at the lovely grounds behind Insole Court and to have tea in the village.

What an incredible informative walk, Insole Court is a hidden gem, that I and many others on the walk had never seen and the history of the city within a city was fascinating, thank you so much Janet.



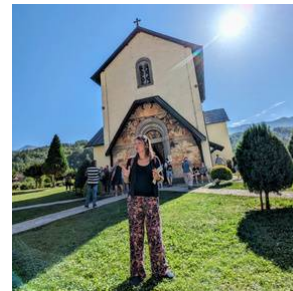
Saturday 16th - 23rd September: Guided walking Holiday in Montenegro.

Wonderful Montenegro. How can I pick just a few photos of such a wonderful week with a wonderful group of people.

Montenegro - Mountains, national parks, canyons, white water rafting, wine tasting in the mountains, swimming in the sea, monasteries and culture. We loved it all.

Thank you to Danijela from Ace Adventures, what a wonderful leader.

Thanks to Andy and Hayley for making the trip possible 😊 x



Cadair Idris Friday 20th - Sunday 22nd October 2022

21 of us going, a minibus and 2 cars, praying for good weather and clear skies on the Saturday.

30th Anniversary Walk, Celebration and AGM

Join us on **Saturday 11th November** to celebrate our 30th anniversary, either by joining us on the walk, at the Guildhall for coffee and cakes or our AGM. (poster attached)

Joint 30th Anniversary and Christmas Party

In case you can't make the 11th there is still chance to celebrate our 30 years of walking, come along to and enjoy a festive lunch at La Luna in Talbot Green on **Saturday 25th November**. (poster attached)

Elan Valley Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th March 2024

19 people booked to go. There is still space available, these would be in sharing twin rooms. If anyone is interested get in touch with June Crichton on 07956520614.

We are now looking to the rest of 2024's for social events, coach trips, weekends away and foreign walking holidays. If you have any suggestion please talk to anyone on the committee and we can look into them further.

October Walks

Sunday 1st October

Caldicot to Chepstow led by Julie Brightman 10m M

Saturday 7th October

Cowbridge led by Lisa Burton 4.5 M

Sunday 8th October

Llantrisant led by Tony Yule 8m M

Sunday 15th October

Circular walk from Pen-y-Fan pond. Nr. Oakdale led by Tony Lawrence 7.5m M

Saturday 21st October

Pencoed led by Rob Young 4m L

Sunday 22nd October

Monmouth, Kymin and Biblin's Bridge led by Derek Wallis 9m M

Sunday 29th October

Varteg. Coety Mountain and Abertillery Ridge led by Michelle Mansell 10m M



RAMBLERS

Taff Ely

*30 years walking.
Come and join us*

**As we repeat our inaugural walk, the Billy Wynt.
Saturday 11th November 10.30am
from Llantrisant Leisure Centre carpark.
Led by Tony Yule, a founder member of the group.**

**The walk will end at Llantrisant Guild Hall.
Where an exhibition of
Taff Ely Ramblers memorabilia will be displayed.
Light refreshments will be available.
Before we hold our
Annual General Meeting at 2.30pm.**

**This is as much of a celebration of Taff Ely Ramblers
as it is the community our members live in.
So please, come along to any part of our day
and bring along family or friends too.**



PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE

30 years walking
and Christmas

AT LA LUNA
RESTAURANT & COCKTAIL BAR
TALBOT GREEN

1pm Saturday
25TH NOVEMBER 2023

A £10 DEPOSIT IS REQUIRED
AND A PRE ORDER FOR ALL COURSES





La Luna

Restaurant • Cocktail Lounge

FESTIVE SET MENU

You can choose 2 courses £22

or 3 courses £26

Please email your pre orders to

hthomas247@gmail.com

Deposit of £10 to be paid as soon as possible

either by

BACS: Sort code: 60-83-01

Account no: 20182487

Account name: Taff Ely Ramblers. (Some systems prefer The Ramblers Association (SW12) which is the parent account)

By Cheque: Payable to: Taff Ely Ramblers

Send to: Julie Brightman 6 Beaufort Court,
Llantrisant. CF72 8BL.

Or in cash to Hayley Thomas

ON ARRIVAL

Warm home-baked breads with seasoned butter

TO START

Cream of mushroom & tarragon soup

Crispy oriental beef with chili jam on cucumber, red pepper, and mixed leaf salad with 'mojito' dressing

Seafood, prawn and smoked salmon cocktail with crème fraîche, lemon and tomato dressing,

Steamed bao buns with oriental bang bang chicken with Asian slaw, soy, chilli, sesame seed dipping sauce

Bruschetta of slow roasted cherry tomatoes with crumbled goat cheese, rocket, basil pesto, balsamic syrup

MAIN EVENT

"All served with seasonal vegetables and thyme and garlic roasted new potatoes"

Escalope of turkey on braised parsnip, potato and onion with a red wine and sun-dried cranberry jus

Beef Bourguignonne, classic French slow roast casserole with pancetta, chestnut mushrooms, thyme & red wine on creamy mashed potato & glazed baby carrots

8oz sirloin steak with brandy and peppercorn sauce, twice cooked Maris piper chips, tomato compote and crispy onions - £3.00 surcharge

Wok-fried oriental style noodles with crispy beef, Thai sauce

Baked fillet of haddock with Welsh rarebit crust on lemon & samphire mash with a roast red pepper, tomato, cockle, clam & prawns sauce

Rigatoni pasta with roast Mediterranean vegetables, butternut squash, spinach & parmesan

DESSERT

Pavlova of iced Christmas pudding parfait with mulled wine pears, morello creamy brandy sauce

Warm chocolate and baileys pot with strawberries, marshmallows, and chocolate brownie cubes

Eton mess: combination of strawberries, whipped cream, and meringue with vanilla-pod ice cream

Baked white chocolate, orange, passionfruit, and vanilla cheesecake with winter berry compote

Selection of Welsh & continental cheeses with homemade chutney, sun-dried tomatoes, and biscuits

