



Rhodwyr Eryri Ramblers NEWSLETTER

Spring/ Summer Newsletter - May 2021

Editorial - Jane Berry

What a pleasure that we can now walk in groups again, I have enjoyed two so far with fine weather for both. Thank you to all those who have contributed to this Newsletter, as always articles and photographs are very welcome. The next issue will be sent out in early August.

Chairman - Dafydd Jones

First of all can I offer our thanks to Roy and Jo-Anne, for keeping us all going with their positive messages about reopening our programme of walks. Roy has also gone a long way to convincing others to use the system he has created as our scheduling and booking system for our programme of walks or develop a better one. Many thanks to you both.

I also want to thank those of you that have already put your hands up to lead walks as we come out of this lockdown, also the keen walkers that have already booked many of the walks. You already know that we haven't had a committee meeting for months, something I shall try to correct in the coming weeks.

On a personal note apologies to all of you that were contacted by the hackers that got into my email account, hope you didn't suffer. The saga is not over at my end but I hope to have some semblance of order in the next week with a "new" account etc.

As for Covid, hope you have all stayed well and healthy and will get back to leading and joining walks as soon as you feel able to.

Dafydd.

Walks - Roy Milne, Walks Secretary walkeryriramblers@gmail.com

It's great to have the freedom to Ramble again, our Walks Programme was ready to roll from 29 April starting with Miekó's Menai Bridges walk.

There is terrific demand, walks get rapidly booked up: out of 13 current walks, at the time of writing (28 April), there are spaces left on only four! More walks will be added as our leaders become confident that the vaccine is working but we desperately need new walks and new leaders to keep up with demand.



Just to whet your appetite, as soon as we were allowed on the mountains, a few of us took advantage of a good rambling day last Saturday to recce Lliwedd it was one of those rare days of perfect mountain walking weather. The views were simply stunning - our cameras could not capture dramatic photos of Crib Goch and Crib y

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Ddysgl, the ant like figures on Snowdon or the dark foreboding North cliffs of Lliwedd. We all ended up with that buzz, the magical feeling that only being up high can instil.

And of course, for the less energetic, Rachel our Walk Leader of the Year commences her Famous Short Walks series from 08 May.

Please, if you have a favourite walk no matter how short, and feel you can contribute to the group, let me know, we will ensure that an experienced walk leader accompanies you.

Don't forget to still follow the Covid rules, take care and stay safe but first and foremost enjoy our freedom.

Happy Rambling

Footpaths

Tîm Taclo Llwybrau (Footpath Tackling Team)

At long last the stay at home, stay local rules have been scrapped and we can all get back into meeting up with friends and family again. Gwynedd Council have recently sent a message hoping that all the volunteer members and all in our group are keeping safe and well.

Ramblers HQ have advised that now travel restrictions have been eased we can consider a restart of some volunteer activities. Tîm Taclo Llwybrau (TTL) is now on standby. When all the boxes regarding the requirements with COVID safe working practice are ticked then we can then look forward to a start date on the volunteer work, unfortunately for now we have no definite date.

There is of course the COVID issue which still remains with us. Not all have had the full required jabs and there is still the safety issue for all involved during this time of possible virus carriers regardless of having the jab or not.

Perhaps you have given thought to volunteering during the lockdown and would like to join us. If so I would just love to hear from you. Volunteering is a great way to make friends and have fun knowing at the same time that you are helping to maintain our much valued Rights of Way footpaths. Just send me an email and you will be kept fully informed as to our work days location and what is involved.

Hope to see you soon.
Graham

Graham Fitch, Footpath Secretary, Arfon / Dwfor. Email: graham.fitchs@gmail.com

Tips for walkers

Starting the day putting feet into cold wet boots is never fun and certainly not when doing a walking holiday/ long distance walk with no time to dry them out. So I was delighted to be given a set of Drysure Active Shoe Dryer inserts (www.drysure.co/) - no electricity needed and they work!
Jane Berry

The Three Peaks Challenge - Joan and Dennis Glass



Clearing through drawers and sorting out, as you do in Lockdown, I came across this account of an interesting weekend a long time ago!

It is an account of a trip Dennis and I made incorporating two of Dennis's favoured past-times, Motoring and Mountaineering! I must point out it was before motorways, except for the first part of the M6 Preston bye-pass, decent car heaters and certainly no Sat Nav! Hope you're not bored!

In 1961 four of us decided to attempt to climb the three highest peaks in England, Scotland and Wales in a period of 24 hrs.

The party consisted of Dennis doing the driving, Jerry as navigator, and Barbara and Joan responsible for photography and timekeeping. Some planning was done beforehand and we made out a time schedule and routecard to enable us to know exactly how we stood at anytime throughout the journey.

A car with good performance on main and narrow roads was deemed necessary and this was to be a Renault Dauphine. Our journey was to commence on a Friday evening straight from work and Snowdon in north Wales was to be the first mountain.

We left Pen-y-Pass at 7.30pm on Friday 2nd June and set a steady pace up the PYG track and into the inevitable mist on Snowdon. The summit was reached in less than 1 and ½ hours and after a few quick photographs were taken, a smart descent was made to Pen-y-Pass to find we had thirty minutes in hand to our time schedule.

Feeling very pleased, we set out for Wastwater in the Lake District to attempt Scafell. En route we fed ourselves with salad rolls and large quantities of fruit and fruit juices. We arrived at Wastwater by first light and immediately set off for the summit. Again, we were soon in heavy cloud which gave no hope of seeing any sunrise off Scafell. However, on the summit we found we were now an hour ahead of our time schedule. After a few photographs in the gloomy mist, a very rapid descent was made down to sea level. We arrived down in such a lather of perspiration that we had to take a few minutes for a quick lakeside wash before heading north again.

It was here that we lost our precious hour! The navigator had fallen asleep and the outcome was a visit to Workington including its many one way streets. However, we were not greatly perturbed because on a time check in Carlisle, we found we were exactly to our laid down schedule.

We soon passed through Gretna, Lockerbie, Lanark, Airdrie and into Stirling having made up 30 minutes in time, this to be immediately lost by an enormous traffic jam, no doubt caused by Saturday lunch time rush hour! Onto Callender and the start of real highland scenery, Rannoch Moor passed hardly noticed, travelling in excess of a mile a minute whenever possible. Down Glencoe around Lock Leven soon to see Fort William and Glen Nevis, the start of our last ascent.

Once more out of the car, and up the long monotonous slog of Ben Nevis, the highest of the three, and as with Snowdon and Scafell we were soon in mist. This time there was a bitterly cold wind blowing and the old observatory on the summit was virtually covered with hard packed frozen snow. A tired and clumsy descent was made down to Glen Nevis and at last we reached the car, the time 7.15pm Saturday evening just 23¾ hours since leaving for Snowdon, having motored over 600 miles, and climbed over 10,000ft.

An Irreverent Tale from the Anon Rambler

At last the mountains are open again! The beautiful weather is helping with people everywhere. It's good to be alive.

Good weather and mountains brings to mind a private scrambling holiday with friends from way back.

Fantastic weather and the Lakes what a combination. Sometimes this can lead to wrong decisions.

The walk was Scafell from Wasdale Head. Off we all go eager to assail one of the Lakes iconic peaks. We reach the top, butties and goodies being consumed. After photo taking and exploring, one of the party came up with the idea of going onto the next peak, Scafell Pike. Its only across there he says. There is no such thing as just across there in the high mountains of the Lakes. I felt faint. It's not a good idea from here, says I. Ever been totally ignored as enthusiasm is running high and infectious. There was a mad rush of packing up and getting ready. I stand alone. I'm not going. The way across to Scafell Fell Pike is by way of a place called Broad Stand and Mickledore. Not for the faint hearted. Not to be deterred by my lone voice off they go. 'Come on its not that bad' as they disappear from view, but I refuse to budge. I'm not going down there!

Many hours later as I'm sitting outside the Wasdale Head Inn, consuming a well-earned local brew. No sign of the others. I apologize to the Inn keeper for the lack of party members due to eat at 7.30. Suddenly we hear the helicopter. Hovering over Scafell Pike. I'm beside myself with worry. Rumors fly round. Someone's fallen! I'm in tears. Oh no my friends! I feel guilty. I should have been more insistent no one go. They finally turned up just before 9.00 just in time to eat. The Inn keeper was a very laid-back man. It was a subdued party. Very tired, thirsty, hungry but strangely reticent.

I got the tale out of my friend the next day. They got into trouble going down Broad Stand. According to my friend if two rock climbers hadn't appeared coming off Mickledore and helped them with ropes, she thought they would have fallen off. Her two boys, both early teens, were clambering all over the place no sense of danger. She said someone had fallen on Scafell Pike and broken their leg.

I felt relieved they managed to come down off the mountains safe but subdued. Silent thanks to the rock climbers who gave their assistance in time of need to some silly hill walkers in a place they shouldn't have been. Needless to say, never be afraid to "Stick to your guns" and be different to everyone else.

Other Groups



Podlediad Eryri
Eryri Podcast

Tranquillity and Solitude - A Space to Breathe

Snowdonia has many peaceful areas for people to enjoy. It's an important part of mental health and well-being. The quiet space is an opportunity to get away, be active and take time out from busy lives.

This month Angela Jones and Dani Robertson from the SNPA co-host an informative and relaxing episode of the Eryri Podcast and joining them as guests to talk about tranquillity and solitude are Jill Bullen from Natural Resources Wales, Dr Graeme Shannon from Bangor University and Bran Devey from Ramblers Cymru. (To access click on Tranquillity and Solitude Above)

May episodes broadcasting dates:-

22/05/21 - Biodiversity in Eryri (Welsh)

29/05/21 - The Snowdonia Society (English)

Menter Fachwen Newsletter - <https://eryriramblers.org/news%2Binfo>

Next Newsletter

All contributions gratefully received by birstallberry@hotmail.com

Deadline: Friday 30th July 2021



Daffodils on the banks of the river Dwyfor last month.

Now bluebells and wood anemones are reaching their peak flowering.