



Spring Newsletter - March 2022

Editorial - Jane Berry

A walk upriver from Llanystumdwy never fails to be uplifting and, having enjoyed snowdrops for several weeks earlier this year, we can now see carpets of wild daffodils and wood anemones. I've only just discovered that the river bank is owned by several different people which explains the number of gates and different management. Next month should see signs of garlic and bluebells. Much harder to see are otters and kingfisher but I'm reliably told they are there.



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this Newsletter.

Please be thinking about what you could add to the summer edition, due at the end of June.

Chairman - Dafydd Jones

It's a while since I was able to join in any of your walks and sadly it looks as though I shall be spending most of the next six months under the care of the NHS, so no walks for me. I shall try to carry on as your Chairman but if you want a change then please let me know and I shall step down.

Roy continues to encourage walk leaders to come forward, which is crucial in the long term, if we are going to go from strength to strength with our walk programmes. If you want to try your hand out at leading walks then contact Roy and he will organise a briefing session for you to allay any nervousness you may have regarding leading a walk. It's all very sensible and practical advice that will develop your skills.

Now that the Covid restrictions have been removed by the Welsh Government it should make life a lot easier for us all, but we still need to be careful and considerate towards each other. The latest case rates are alarmingly high so proceed with caution with car sharing etc. The recent spell of sunny weather will have encouraged you all to get out and about so enjoy your walks and the company of others.

Tim Taclo Llwybrau - Graham Fitch graham.fitchs@gmail.com

I am in discussion with the Council with regard to a TTL start up. All going well with officers wanting us to get underway again. A few logistical issues though to be sorted. I'll be in touch when there is a definite plan.

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

Hello everybody,

I think you will agree that Covid has permanently changed our lives, the importance of time with family, friends and holidays has become paramount. The sudden loss of a close relative yesterday who was a keen rambler and country dancer brings the value of personal time into sharp focus.

Recently the poor weather has limited the number of walks and currently we have five leaders recuperating from injury and illness. This will improve in the Springtime and pleasingly we have had two new walk leaders join us – Susan and Matt.

I know some of you would prefer to use the printed Combined Walks Programme (CWP) but please consider our walk leaders who give their time voluntarily.

The CWP required walks to be determined between six and nine months in advance, most leaders now don't want to be committed so far ahead. Nor in the age of scamming do they want their personal phone number circulating to around 500 non-members (we have 1,100 members in North Wales). Another limitation was that if the weather was bad, the walk was cancelled and all the leader's effort in planning and recceing was lost.

If you want to see the doctor, the dentist, your hairdresser or even go for a sociable evening dinner, booking is now a way of life.

Our rolling on-line walks programme is flexible, leaders can quickly publish walks. We can easily re-schedule in case of bad weather so the walk is not lost, it gives automatic provision of a register and a limit on numbers for demanding technical walks and scrambles. Another advantage is interested walkers can be notified easily about cancellations/changes by email or text and it provides automatic reminders.

For members, [booking of walks](#) is simple via the Eryri website ([which also works like a mobile phone app](#)). **See Mieke's guide which follows.**

To date [14 March] we have done 19 walks with a total of 35 published in 2¹/₂ months which is as many as we used to do in 6 months before Covid. With improving Spring and Summertime weather and with walk leaders returning to fitness plus our new walk leaders more walks will begin to flow (like Mieke's posted today for Sunday 20 March). The demand should even out and walks will remain open for booking longer.

You can help us! – we are constantly looking for new walk leaders, Dafydd (our Chairman) and I have simplified the rules so please, if you have a favourite walk and would like to give something back let me know.

Rhodwyr Eryri Ramblers Newsletter

We accept that our present booking system is not perfect, it was always a stop gap for Covid. I could set it to permit people to cancel directly but they would then have to log in and remember yet another tedious password.

Ramblers HQ are working on a new walks system which will permit leaders to post their own walks directly (the present GWEM system is a convoluted time-wasting nightmare that even HQ call "clunky").

Hopefully this new HQ system will surpass ours and I can become redundant! Take care and make the most of life.

How to join a walk with Eryri Ramblers – Mieko Yamaguchi, Eryri Publicity Officer

- To book a walk go to Eryri Ramblers walks page, <https://eryriramblers.org/walks/>, find a walk and click the purple BOOK button
- You will then see more details of the walk
- If you decide you want to join this walk click another purple BOOK button
- On the next screen you will be asked for your name, email address and phone number
- You will receive a confirmation email after you have successfully booked a place on the walk

Can I book a place for someone else?

- Yes, you can book a place for your friend or partner
- Please book each person separately even if you share an email address and/or telephone number
- Confirmation email and a reminder the day before the walk will go to whatever email address/phone number you enter on the booking form

How do I cancel my booking?

- Send an email to eryriramblers@gmail.com so someone else can enjoy the walk
- For a last minute cancellation (after 6pm the day before the walk) email or send a message to the walk leader
- If you are a member of Eryri Ramblers you will have received a confidential list of walk leaders' phone numbers

I can no longer see a walk on Eryri Ramblers website. Why?

- When a walk is fully booked it is no longer listed in the main part of Eryri Ramblers' walks page
- Scroll down the page and you will see a list of walks including those fully booked.

Past walks – Mieko Yamaguchi, Eryri Publicity Officer

Since the start of the first lockdown two years ago, it has been difficult to keep track of Eryri Ramblers past walks. Lists of 2020 and 2021 walks have been compiled and posted on the website along with selected photos. <https://eryriramblers.org/past-walks>

Please let Mieko know if you notice any errors or omissions.

Being a Rusty Walk Leader (Aberdesach Circular 24th Feb) – Margaret Lowe

It had been a while since I had led a walk. I thought I had covered the basics in preparing interested walkers with what to expect -

- Toilets (none) and refreshments (bring your own)
- Obstructions (I'd cleared brambles away from a small footbridge and hammered a bit of barbed wire into the fence post by a stile following a memory of someone impaling a finger on it).
- I'd checked tide tables and the weather forecast.
- The recce found no threatening livestock; a couple of noisy geese were just that.
- I warned about the likelihood of long wet grass and the many stiles.
- I gave bus times.

In retrospect, I should have mentioned the length of difficult walking on the beach cobbles after the coastal path leaves the sand dunes. There was a complaint made on behalf others! There was a strong on-shore wind which could have caused something of headwind on a small stretch of between Trwyn Maen Dylan and Pontllyfni. This caused me to alter the direction of my usual anti-clockwise route. This lack of familiarity resulted in me overshooting the appropriate place to leave the sand dunes and descend to the beach. I was faced with a steep and muddy descent. Almost immediately I found myself diving into bushes. No harm done, except to my dignity. It was a strong signal for others to retreat to a better way down.

The other unexpected obstacle was finding a farmer on a JCB at work on creating a channel for water from a drainage ditch, which had previously fanned out into trickles over the sand. Crossing this brand new obstacle resulted in several of us getting a wet foot.

The last change since my recce was a field which now held 3 Welsh ponies. One of these clearly thought that titbits should be provided and nudged several of us. Fortunately no-one seemed bothered by this.

(I imagine all walks leaders will smile wryly at this tale, with similar experiences, I certainly did! – Ed)

An Irreverent Tale from the Anon Rambler – hope to hear from you in summer!

Menter Fachwen Walks – www.menterfachwen.org.uk

And finally, thank you Roy for this:



"And they call US stupid!"