

Newsletter

Autumn 2025



This has been a busy and exciting year for us celebrating our 50th Anniversary as members of The Ramblers! We started early with a volunteer subcommittee of Gwenda, Jane and Jeff to create the framework for our celebrations and to get the planning up and running. They did an amazing job planning our budget, publicity, walks programme, leaflet design and distribution and of course finding a suitable venue for our Celebration Day! It was wonderful that so many of you joined us bringing along your amazing culinary contributions to add to the feast! The weather was a bit erratic and a few walks were challenging, but all went ahead except for one walk which became a victim of Storm Ophelia. A huge shout out to our amazing walk leaders for all their planning and the superb leading of their walks! And to our members and visitors who turned up to support them and make the whole venture such a success.

Our celebration on Saturday was marvellous and it was a pleasure to welcome some past members, who can no longer join in our walks but are still active locally. We were delighted to welcome Kanishka Narayan MP for the Vale and John Deakin, Mayor of Llantwit on our morning walk. Both stayed for our event in CF61, where we were also joined by Jane Hutt, Senedd member for the Vale. Kanishka and Jane addressed our members, both highlighting the benefits of friendship, health and co-operation as well as the care and appreciation of our natural environment. Our slide show selected from a huge collection contributed by members, brought back awe-inspiring memories to remind us just how important walking is in our lives. Wonderful chat, perfect visitors, excellent friends, food, drinks and a walk, a classic Ramblers celebration! A big thank you to John Duxbury for compiling our slide show and to the wonderful Nicki and Chris for making their expertise and equipment from Chatty Caffi available to us which contributed immensely to the success of our celebration.

Celebration Photos



Our guests and members by John Duxbury



Ian addressing the gathering and Brenda cutting the celebration cake

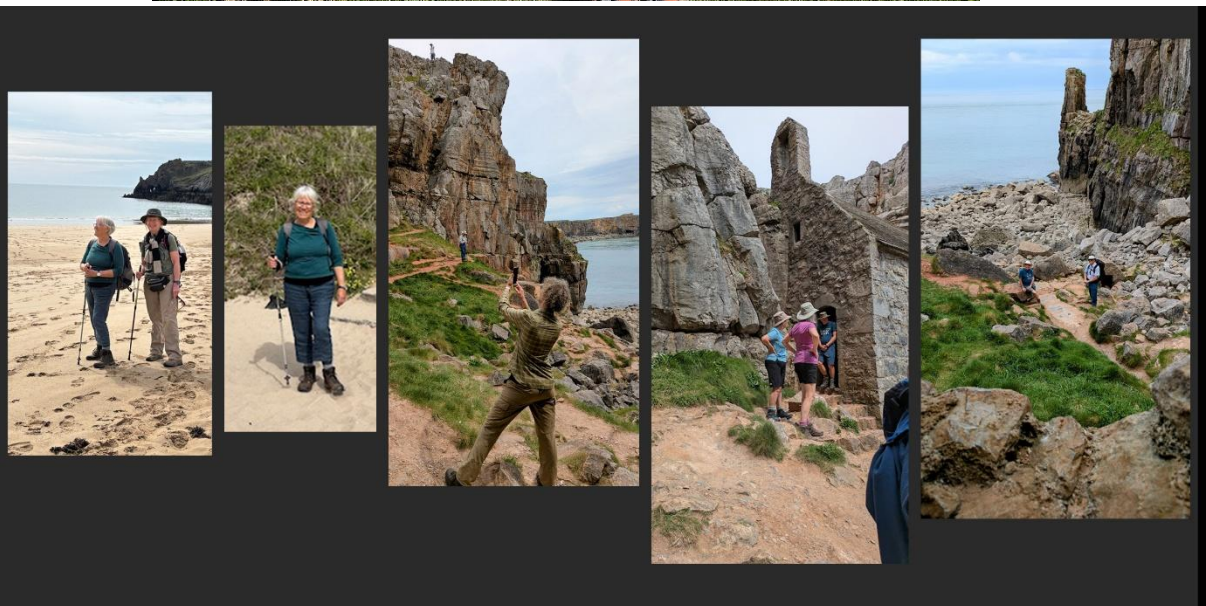
In the rest of our news, our walking programmes have been full and well attended. The demise of a printed programme has led to more flexibility when needed. Our walks have varied between long, short and summer evening walks. We introduced more short walks where we could but this is always dependent on having leaders available. We could certainly do with more volunteers for our short walks.

Our Autumn '24 and Spring '25 weekends away were extremely successful. Our first, in October '24 was organised by Chris and Nicki who were well acquainted with the local area around Kington and put together a great weekend of walks long and short plus a Birthday Curry evening to round off events!



A Welsh trig point invasion and Chris expounding on the Whet Stone

In early May we returned to Pembrokeshire, this time to the lovely town of Narberth. Walks were based around Freshwater West and the Coastal Path followed on the second day by Stackpole and Bosherton, all in glorious weather with a fun loving group of Ramblers. These were all led by Judy and Julie. Those who managed to arrive early on the Friday enjoyed a walk followed by tea and scrumptious cakes at Julie's house.



The Coast and a visit to St Govan's Chapel

At the behest of our members, two items were re-introduced: a coach trip and our 'Ramble with a Difference'. These were lost in the midst of lockdown. Our coach trip was from Marlborough to the Avebury with plenty of time to commune with the Stones, have tea and cakes in the NT café or find your way to The Red Lion! Some member who weren't walking were spoilt by the choice of shops and cafes in Marlborough. Our walk with a Difference devised by Ian and Judy and proved an interesting outing. The tallying in the Vale Pub afterwards, with splendid prizes drew the day to a satisfying end!



Avebury Stone Circle



Judy on 'Walk with a Difference' duty. Anyone spot Ian?!

The Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural show was held in mid-August. Gwenda and team again created a very successful display and were delighted to have members of other Rambler groups visiting to say hello. Valeways joined us with their own small display on our stand. Our future attendance at the Show is uncertain, mainly due to rising costs.



AGM 31st October 2024

In 2024 we moved our AGM to daytime with a walk and lunch followed by the formal business. Although numbers weren't large, they were certainly an improvement on previous years. Thank you to all who participated.

Our social events were, as always well attended. Ruth organised seasonal drinks in the Bear in December, followed by an early spring meal in the New Year in The Boverton Castle. To conclude our summer evening walks we met in the Porto Due in July in Llantwit for a very successful evening. Our Path Maintenance and Litter Picking continue with Ian organising evening activities while Sarah and the team are beavering away with cleaning up the local area and doing a great job. We join The South East Rivers Trust when the work is local to us near the Ely River.



Porto Due summer meal and Gileston Litter Pick

Rambler's Walk Leader Training

The Ramblers now require all walk leaders to take Online Walk Leader Training. Over half of our present leaders have completed this with the remainder planning to do so before the end of the year. Thank you to everyone who has done so up to now. We look forward to having a full house soon! New walk leaders always welcome.

Next AGM 5th November 2025 at the Prince of Wales, Kenfig

The committee would like to acknowledge the advice we received from Valeways in organising our Anniversary Celebration and the financial contribution from Ramblers Area.

This newsletter acts as the joint yearly report from the Group Secretary Gwenda and the Group Chair Jackie

Jackie Brett ~ Chair

October 2025

Photo Credits

Thank you to everyone who has contributed photos for our use over the last year as well as those included in this newsletter.

Our regular contributors:

Chris, Clive, Helen, Huw, Jane, Jeff R, Jeff M, Jackie, John D, Julie, Keith, Ruth, Sharon & Su.

Just a few extra photos!



Black Weir Cardiff



Judy leading in the Vale



Kim's Twmbarlwm Walk



Another wet one with Su on the Skirrid



Helen in North Cardiff



Christine's Llancarfan walk

The End!

