



*The land on the left of this picture is Open Access. The land on the right including the summit is not.
(See Page 6)*

This is the final edition of Y Cerddwyr – Welsh Rambler. The decision to discontinue this mail out was taken by the Welsh Council Executive Committee (WCEC).

The previous editions were produced by the Ramblers

Welsh Council in 2010 will take place on Saturday March 27th in Llandrindod Wells. Details of the meeting time and programme will be circulated to Groups in December. The meeting will last a maximum of 3 hours and start either late morning or early afternoon.

This is the Annual General Meeting of the Ramblers in Wales.

Cymru Office. It has been paid for from the Office Funds.

Due to the financial position of the Association at this time support for it was withdrawn by Ramblers Centrally.

We intend moving to an e-mail Newsletter. If you wish to

Welsh Council 2010

Although the meeting is open to all members of Ramblers Groups in Wales it is a delegate conference. The delegates having their expenses paid. Other members either having to share transport with the delegates or travel at their own expense.

Welsh Council has in the past developed into a two day

receive these messages, which can be discontinued at anytime, please send your e-mail address to:

<http://www.ramblers.org.uk/membership/Email+sign+up.htm>

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conference. This has included training, policy discussions and site visits. With our current financial situation this kind of conference is too expensive.

Information as it becomes available will be distributed to all Area and Group Secretaries.

Message from the Chairman



Helen and Beverley with John Lloyd Jones (CCW) and Kate Thomas (RWS)

Hopefully you have spent the summer walking and enjoying yourselves and you have been blissfully unaware of the interesting times we have experienced in Ramblers Cymru.

Those of you who know, will be aware that we were told in May that the Cardiff office would have to be closed and that we could only have two members of staff based in Wales.

Thanks to the concerted efforts of all the members who heard about this, miracles have happened. We have kept the office, although we will be looking for ways to reduce the overheads on it and we currently have five members of staff working there. We are also advertising for more posts as we have been awarded funding for projects we had been applying for.

The downside is that we saw our Director Beverley Penney leaving us and two members of staff, Anwen Parker and Celia Parry. We thank them for all their hard work and their contribution to Ramblers over the years and wish them every happiness in the future. Celia we know is training to be a Welsh tutor and was last seen looking very happy and relaxed at the Eisteddfod in Bala.

The positive side is the way we all pulled together. The help members have given from all over Wales has been wonderful and the Chief Executive actually told the Board of Trustees meeting that the way Wales has responded to what was a financial crisis has been amazing and one of the most positive things that have happened to the Ramblers recently.

Credit must be given to the staff team that were retained. They have

chosen to take a positive attitude and to see what they can do to improve things for walkers in Wales and the office buzzes with their positivity. We have a terrific team in Cardiff.

When so many people have worked so hard to make things happen, the list of people who should be thanked is very long. As Chair I would like to single out Alex Marshall for being available for consultation constantly, to Ron Williams for taking forward the Eisteddfod Tom Ellis walk which won us good publicity and to John Morgan from Ceredigion who masterminded the Royal Welsh rota and did the putting up and taking down of the displays, to David Alison in North Wales and to Margaret and Neville Fernley who master minded the Eisteddfod rota.

Andrew Morgan and Zetta Flew's Coastal Path work reassured our stakeholders that Ramblers Cymru could deliver. If you haven't seen their work, it is superb. Each document they have submitted to the local authorities from Monmouth to Swansea is a thesis in its own right. When we walk the Coastal Path in 2012 we shall think of the work they did this year.

I have fantastic memories of a summer that Richard dryly tells people was hi-jacked by the Ramblers. Maggie Thomas on our executive hoovering our stand at the Royal Welsh. Kate Thomas Lord Lieutenant for Mid Glamorgan and President of the Royal Welsh Show coming to our stand at the show. Jane Davidson our Minister for the Environment, Housing and Sustainability coming to meet us for the Tom Ellis walk in Bala. We had terrific letters of support from Jane Davidson, from Rhodri Morgan our First Minister and from Peter Hain our Secretary

of State and to our delight an unsolicited letter of support from Nick Bourne Leader of the Conservative group in Wales.

We can't tell you we are out of the woods yet but we can tell you that because you have helped this summer, we are in a far better position than anybody could have dreamt possible. Welsh Council will be streamlined this year but we will be bringing an exciting motion to Welsh Council looking to make it more open to all members by the following year. Powys Area are organising the day and it will be in Llandrindod on Saturday March 27th. If you fancy making a weekend of it, then there will be walks available on the Sunday in the area.

We're entering our 75th year as Ramblers and we deserve some time celebrating. We're putting on a big event in the National Museum of Wales on June 23rd and tickets will be on a first come, first served basis. If you have

never been there, it is a superb setting for a reception or a dinner or both. So make a diary date now. The Festival of Winter Walks will continue as will the Get Walking, Keep Walking day in May. Stepping Stones has relaxed its guidelines a bit but the groups will still be putting Stepping Stones walks on their programmes. These are great for members who have less time to walk and for those who are working their fitness levels back up. Rail Rambles continue. The programme is on the web site.

March sees us take the 75th celebration baton and we will be doing a series of celebration walks across Wales in March.

To you all, many, many thanks and have fun walking

Best Wishes
Helen

Rescued by Air Ambulance

It was one of those beautiful, clear days, perfect for walking. There had been a frost overnight which made the ground rock hard. On the descent from Tor y Foel we took extra care. It's a difficult descent on any day, but when the earth is hard and there may be some traces of ice in places, you can't be too careful. No problem!

We'd done the hard bit, stopped for a rest and taken in the amazing scenery, now we were on the level. It used to be an old cart road. It still has ruts and grooves in the otherwise flat path, but now we could walk 2 or 3 abreast and chat as we walked.

When he first fell, we laughed! You do. Everybody does when someone has come a cropper, half glad that it's someone else who looks daft. The smiles quickly disappeared.

(Secretary Islwyn Ramblers)

Everything happened fast. Richard, the guy with the GPS phoned for an ambulance and gave precise directions, then walked back along the cart road to go to meet them, unaware that his grid reference was so good that they knew exactly how to find us. Allan, our Chair took charge of the invalid. He was lying in extremely cold water, albeit very shallow. Allan weighed up the arguments. He needed to be moved, but we knew that it is important not to move an accident victim unless absolutely necessary.

Everyone did as they were told. Simon led those who weren't needed back to the start of the walk to wait for us in the pub.

The helicopter arrived very quickly, as did the other ambulance. Needless to say they

were professional. We are extremely grateful to Wales Air Ambulance. He could have been taken to hospital in the other ambulance, but so great were his injuries he would have been in tremendous pain.

Incidents like this are extremely rare on walks. The majority of call outs to rescue people by helicopter are because of illness. The Welsh Ambulance Service relies on donations from the public. Maggie Thomas

Coast Path

Ramblers Cymru will be piloting two fully funded projects which demonstrate significant contribution by Ramblers to the delivery of Britain's first National Coast Park

Beverley Takes a New Path



Beverley Penney

Beverley Penney, who has led Ramblers Cymru since 1982 as Welsh Officer and then Director Wales, has moved on. Former Ramblers' chairman Kate Ashbrook pays tribute to her outstanding work for walkers in Wales.

The Ramblers' executive committee meeting on 4 September 1982 which noted the imminent arrival of our first computer also welcomed our Welsh Officer, Beverley Penney. Her appointment was hailed in the press with the sobriquet Rambling Rose. Our magazine, *Rucksack*, of February 1983 listed her priorities: making contact with areas and groups, preparing a report on membership and organisation in Wales and promoting the Ramblers' policy on major countryside issues. She achieved all this and much, much more, from her work bases in Ammanford, Wrexham and finally Cardiff, close to the Assembly.

At the time of her appointment Beverley was our only member of staff in Wales. She had a provisional driving licence, so she was looking forward to being our Welsh officer on a moped, but she soon passed her driving test and

later learnt to speak Welsh and achieved a marketing degree.

During her time with us, Ramblers Cymru staff grew to eight, membership has expanded steadily from 839 to 7,000, and the number of groups has increased to 40, including young people's groups. Beverley led Ramblers Cymru in lobbying successfully for freedom to roam on open country, which was enshrined in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, and subsequently for coastal access, now being implemented. Beverley is well-known throughout Wales as the walker's champion. She has helped to build a really effective volunteer team campaigning to persuade the Countryside Council for Wales and the local authorities to focus on the value of public paths and the need to get them in good order.

These achievements came about because Beverley worked hard to influence two First Ministers and eleven Secretaries of State in Wales. The current Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing, Jane Davidson AM, a former Vice-President of Ramblers Cymru, has written of 'the extremely valuable work being undertaken by the Ramblers' team in Wales and the contribution it is making at the Wales and local levels on a number of important fronts'.

Beverley greatly valued our volunteers, and led them in organising annual, nationwide events such as the Festival of Winter Walks, Family Rambling Day and Forbidden Britain Day, while the 1985 fiftieth jubilee Round Wales Walk and the footpath-condition survey in 2003 put a spotlight on Wales. She was always available, day and night, to help and advise volunteers, with

all of whom she had a close relationship, treating the Ramblers as a large family.

When the Countryside Council for Wales was formed in 1990, Beverley saw the need for the voluntary sector to be able to challenge the new quango. Thus she was a co-founder of Wales Environment Link, which has become a vital coordinating body for the voluntary sector.

Beverley now intends to help make coastal access a reality for Welsh residents and visitors, developing circular walks for all abilities, and promoting the 30 best circular walks along the Welsh coast as a lasting legacy of the Ramblers' work, which she led for so long. As Beverley moves on from Ramblers Cymru we are deeply grateful for the difference which she personally has made for walkers in Wales. They would have a far inferior experience but for her tireless and loyal efforts over the last 27 years. *Diolch yn fawr iawn!*

The Welsh Executive Committee has decided to make a presentation to Beverley for her outstanding contribution to the walking public in Wales.

The presentation will be made at Welsh Council on 27th March 2010.

Contributions from Individuals, Areas and Groups to this fund are welcome. Please send them to:

**Ron Williams
Treasurer (WCEC)
11 Fron Las
Holywell
CH8 7HX**

Ramblers Cymru Web Links

*****Ramblers Cymru Twitter page:**
<http://twitter.com/RamblersCymru>

*****Ramblers Cymru Flickr photo page:**
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Ramblers Cymru Staff

After some major changes over the last few months, as Ramblers Cymru enters autumn 2009 we are delighted to update our members with news about the current Ramblers Cymru team and our work.



Robert Hanna is our **Senior Ramblers Cymru Development and Promotion Officer**. Robert is leading the team and the development and implementation of the Ramblers Cymru work Plan for the next 12 months of work:

Our Vision

“To develop a dynamic, valued and competitive organisation for Wales that fulfils its potential in contributing to the Ramblers five year plan whilst contributing to the National agenda and sustaining its communities, culture and environment in Wales”.

Targets have yet to be signed off but including developing Ramblers Cymru work in North Wales, some exciting new work on the All Wales Coastal Path. We are looking forward to a much stronger presence in North Wales starting from 2010.



Mike Mills is our **Rights of Way Officer**.

Outline of work for 2009/2010:
Walking Environments:

Exciting projects taking shape through the Wales Business Plan Making ROWIP's Work Project which develops interventions to improve the performance of the bottom five authorities.

All Wales Coastal Path a flagship

project for Wales. This 750 mile route is fully funded by WAG and is a delivery partnership comprising of all our critical partners:

WAG – Overall responsibility for the delivery by 2012.

CCW – leading on infrastructure (Hard measures) supported by 16 of the 22 Wales local authorities.



Julie Hannam is our **Field Officer** for the **Communities on Foot project**. She is working on the pilot in selected areas of Neath Port Talbot. The project aims to both get more people walking around their own community and improve the footpaths in these areas. Julie is working with Town & Community Councils, Community First Partnerships and Development Trusts to deliver this work and to ensure a lasting legacy. It is hoped that this energizing project will be rolled out across Wales from next summer.

We are also excited to welcome an **Administration Assistant** from **Countryside Council for Wales – Ceri Lyn Jones**. Ceri has been assisting us in the office once a week with administration, organising events and updating our Welsh language policies.

Martin Bevan will be joining us as a consultant on the 'Reaching Out' project which is a continuation of the fantastic work done by Angela Charlton in her former role as Community Walking Officer.



James Norman is our **Communication/IT Assistant** and he has been working to update and maintain our website. www.ramblers.org.uk/wales

James has also been investigating digital ways of communicating with our members and has been establishing new accounts for Ramblers Cymru with Twitter, Flickr and YouTube. James has also been involved with events, generating publicity and writing articles for Ramblers Cymru.



Angela Charlton is The Projects Fundraiser for Wales & Scotland. She previously held the post of Community Walking Officer for Wales. Her recent activities have been in the development of an all Wales Business Plan & fundraising strategy. Developing new partnerships and securing appropriate funding to support the innovations coming out of Wales are high on her agenda. Scotland are receiving development support and exciting projects are emerging.

Ceri Williams is also joining us as a consultant to deliver e-Trails (a walking enhancement project) working with a whole range of partners including CADW, The

National Museum of Wales and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

Ramblers staff have also been strengthening links with the **Welsh Council Executive Committee (WCEC)** this year and have benefited from their support during the changes. WCEC have also asked that staff ensure we are engaged with the review of the proposed new land management programme Glastir, which replaces

Tir Gofal & Tir Cynnal. We have also been asked to ensure Ramblers Cymru contributes to the 10 year review of Access land. We are looking forward to forging closer ties with local authorities and although money is tight, Ramblers Cymru has secured funding for the next 12 months and we are well underway with delivering our Business Plan.

Ramblers Cymru are eager to show that we are still very much

here and looking forward to promoting our core values and achieving our key aims in both preserving and opening footpaths and promoting walking. The benefits of walking in terms of the physical body and socially are known by many and we want Ramblers to be the first name on everyone's lips; we were and still very much are **'at the heart of walking/wrth gallon cerdded'**

Access Mapping Review

You will remember how we rejoiced when the open access land was published on the OS Explorer Maps and we gained over 360,000 hectares of open land to walk on. Although open access started in May 2005, the 10 year review of open access land will be commencing in a year or so time. We have been informed by WAG that they and CCW will start looking at the review soon. The process of review has already commenced in England with a meeting of "key national stakeholders", so we expect to be involved in anything similar in Wales.

The Welsh Council Executive Committee (WCEC) has decided to contact Area Access Officers for their views on what form the Review should take. Also agreed was the setting up of a "Ramblers Cymru 10 year review forum".

If you are interested in assisting in the review and would like to participate in this forum, please let Mike Mills know.

Maybe you were a volunteer during the mapping process between 2001 and 2004 and sent in requests to CCW for additional parcels of land to go on the "Provisional Maps". You were probably disappointed as only 732 hectares were added to the maps, whilst over 12,262 ha were deleted from the draft map following applications from landholders. A further 2,452 ha were removed during the appeals by landholders.

If you were one of these volunteers, do you still have a record of your applications? If you do, please don't throw them out. They will be useful during the Review.

Although Regulations for the Review have not yet been drafted, in the meanwhile here is a small request to all Ramblers in Wales. So that we are ready to participate when the time comes, would all of you please notify your local Ramblers Cymru Access Officer of any areas of land which you think should be mapped as open access, but are not currently shown as yellow wash on the OS Explorer maps.

All areas of unimproved land should be mapped – for example if you come across adjacent parcels of land which look to have similar vegetation, but one is shown as yellow wash and the other is not, please let us know.

By working together we can ensure that Ramblers Cymru plays a significant role in the Review and gaining more open access land on which we can walk.

Adventurer of the Year Award



GO Outdoors on Newport Road in Cardiff, dedicated its store opening to **Andrew Morgan** and

Zetta Flew, on Saturday 3rd October - before presenting them with South Wales Outdoor Adventurer of the Year 2009 trophy.

Ramblers Andrew and Zetta have been recognised for the work they have done on Coastal Access in support of the Welsh Assembly Government' commitment to open the UK's first National Coastal Path in Wales by 2012. They have worked closely with many local authorities in Wales, walking and submitting recommendations for the route and it is a testament to the work they have done that many of the

recommendations now appear in the final coastal path plans.

Mike Mills, Rights of Way Officer for Ramblers Cymru commented: "The work Andrew and Zetta have done on the coastal path is only a part of the massive contribution their work has made to the walking environment in Wales. Like many hundreds of our volunteers in Wales, they routinely watch over our footpaths, report problems and work with local authorities to ensure that paths are kept open and easy to use for the benefit of everyone, they thoroughly deserve this award



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Ramblers Events 2010



At Amelia FarmTrust on a Cardiff Group Family Walk

Welsh Rambler Groups are urged to get involved in the Ramblers 2010 Walking Initiatives:

Festival of Winter Walks (December 26 – January 3)

This is our regular national walking festival between Christmas and New Year that appeals to non-members and members needs no introduction.

Groups need only update their walks on the Ramblers Group Walk Finder

Groups can order Festival poster blanks (A4), A5 flyers and 20% discount forms from Mariusz Wilczynski 020 7339 8536 or by e-mail:

mariusz.wilczynski@ramblers.org.uk, but don't leave it too late.

Baton Walk (March 2010): As part of the Ramblers' 75th Anniversary Celebrations, Welsh Groups are being asked to nominate one of their March 2010

walks as a Baton Walk.

The baton walk will start with a walk in South West England in early January and end with a walk in the South East of England in December. [Note: The baton won't directly be passed from group to group – the emphasis is on its passage through Britain.]

Groups taking part in the Baton Relay need to email 75anniversary@ramblers.org.uk with your name, your Group's name, your country/region, and any other details about your Baton Walk that you may have agreed. Please title your email 'Baton Walk'; ~ put it on the Group Walks Finder and tag it as a Baton Walk by adding the code R75 in the "Themed Walk" field.

Groups will receive delivery of the Baton and template press releases in time for their walk.

Get Walking Day (Sunday May 23 or Saturday May 22): A regular in the Ramblers' Walking

Calender whose focus is on shorter walks (less than 5 miles in length) that are particularly popular in attracting new walkers.

Groups taking part in Get Walking Day need to: email 75anniversary@ramblers.org.uk with your name and your Group's name and brief details about your Get Walking Day walk. Please title your email 'Get Walking Day'; ~ put it on the Group Walks Finder and tag it as a Get Walking Day walk by adding the code GWD10 in the "Themed Walk" field;

Groups will receive template press releases, promotional leaflets and poster blanks in time for their walk.

For help in updating the Ramblers Group Walks Finder contact Ramblers Walks Finder support volunteers at volunteer@ramblers.org.uk

Gwyn Lewis