

## Forthcoming Events

### 1st Coach Trip – Ironbridge – 14 July 2013

There is much to do and see in Ironbridge (near Telford). If you don't want to take part in the walks there will be plenty to occupy you. As usual we will be stopping for an evening meal before returning to Newport. The cost of the coach will be £17.00. The coach will leave the lower car park at the Civic Centre at 8.30am If you wish to come ring Ken on 01633 894172.

### Boules Night – 16 July 2013

Dave has booked the Wheatsheaf pub in Llanhennock for our annual competition. We had 26 members taking part last year and even had good weather!! We will have a meal: choose from chilli con carne, faggots and peas or chicken curry at a cost of £6. Arrive after seven for 7.30. Ring Dave on 01633 864462 to book your place.

### BBQ – Tintern – 11 August 2013

We are returning to Tintern as the facilities are good and Derek is still able to find a different walk each year. Koirin will once again be kind enough to organise the food and with our resident cooks Doug and John in charge we should have a good day. The cost is £6 and you need to confirm your place by ringing Ken on 01633 894172.

### 2nd Coach Trip – Winchester – 15 September 2013

We are returning to the Winchester area as we have had requests to visit the city itself. There will be the usual long and medium walks and also a short walk around the city. A meal on our way home should make for a good day out. The cost of the coach is £17.00. Our coach will leave the Civic at 8.30.am.

### Week away – Jersey – 7-11 October 2013

We are venturing abroad this year. We have booked the Norfolk Lodge Hotel in St Helier, It is has an indoor swimming pool and is situated in a tranquil residential area within a 10 minute walk to the shops and beach. We will travel by coach to Weymouth and then board the Fast Cat to Jersey. The one problem we have is the maximum size of the buses in Jersey. Their largest bus will only carry 42 passengers so this could limit our numbers. I have asked I.O.W. tours to look into the possibility of having two smaller coaches on the island. This may be possible but will incur an extra cost. The cost of our holiday is £239 at the moment but if we

need to have two buses it may rise to £249. I will need to send them a £20.00 deposit so if you have not already booked, ring Ken if you wish to come.

## Past events in 2012/2013

### Christmas Dinner

Our new venue of the Parc Golf Club was considered a great success and we will probably return there next year.

### Christmas Walk and Lunch

A new venue as well, The Carpenters Arms provided an excellent meal and could become a regular haunt as long as we can find walks in the area.

### Okehampton

Our annual trip took place in February. 17 members came this year. It was cold but dry and the walks were excellent. Derek held on to his archery title as did Colin and David in the table tennis. The ladies excelled in the jewellery designs and Ted sang his little heart out in our musical quiz evening.

## Other News

### Walks for all members

The walks on Sunday 14 April and Sunday 28 July are moderate walks for all members. We hope that as many members as possible can make each of these walks for a sociable ramble in interesting places.

### Blaenavon Walking Festival

We have been asked by the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre to inform you that the Blaenavon Walking Festival takes place between 6 and 12 April 2013. There are a variety of walks. For more information ring 01495 742333 or got to <http://www.visitblaenavon.co.uk/en/ForgottenLandscapes/Discovery/Walking-Festival.aspx>.

### Ruperra Conservation Trust

The Ruperra Conservation Trust continue their good work and should you be interested in receiving their newsletter or perhaps becoming a volunteer yourself get in touch with Sue or Tony on 07977 599181 or e.mail at [ruperra@gmail.com](mailto:ruperra@gmail.com)

### Ramblers new web site

The Ramblers have also launched their new website together with routes and maps. Sign on to [www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk) It has several features including a dedicated Volunteer Zone. The

new website also unveils Ramblers Routes an extensive library of downloadable high quality walking routes. They have also produced some promotional films which can be viewed from YouTube site. A DVD is available by contacting Ceri Thomas on 029 2064 6892

## Flexigroups

Flexigroups is a new concept within the Ramblers. It is aimed at small groups of walkers who initially do not wish join an existing group but wish to be covered by our insurers. They get no financial help from the R.A. and the concept in Greater Gwent is that any help will be reviewed in 12 months.

## Ramblers and National Trails

In December 2012 the Ramblers applied to take on the promotion and marketing of our National trails. Unfortunately they were not successful and the Government declined our offer. The Ramblers will continue to monitor the situation so that we get the best deal for our much loved National trails. Nicky Philpott, Campaigns Director has urged us to sign a petition supporting our claims, details of which are on their new website.

## Footpaths

SGR Footpath Officer has advised that Newport City Council and the volunteer group continue their good work to provide more leafleted walks in our area and to further improve our stiles, kissing gates and boardwalks.

## South Gwent Ramblers web site

SGR Webmaster is continuing his work to improve our website and hopefully it will be completed in the near future. The site is still at <http://www.backroomboys.co.uk/south-gwent-ramblers/>

## Membership

Falling membership in Greater Gwent is causing concern. They now have 839 members as opposed to 874 in January last year. South Gwent has dropped by 6 to 148. Every effort must be made to reverse this trend.

## A Basseleg Walk

We did a walk that I had not pre-walked - all three of us: me, Ted and Gerard. At first all went well. Then we briefly got lost when the map on the GPS differed from what we could see on the ground. After a brief hunt the stile game, we proceeded. One field later, a hedge had grown in where a stile had been. After 20 minutes or so, we gave up trying to find a way round it. So it was on to plan B which worked well until ...

We were on a longish boardwalk of superb construction over a very wet bog up to the point where a tree crossed the boardwalk at a crazy angle and blocked it. Half an hour of sawing and pruning ensued. We had to be careful all the time not to get knocked off the

boardwalk by errant branches as we removed them one by one. Eventually, the way was clear: we proceeded.

Half a mile later, the game changed to bash the brambles, then to bash the bracken: another ten minutes of varied physical activity to pass along a path that was not used because of the tree that we cut away. Then, miracle of miracles, we reached a national path and all was well again.

It was a six-mile walk from Basseleg to Fox Hill and back. It is now easy going all the way, but I bet it isn't as much fun as when we did it.

The pint the TA afterwards was delicious.

**Fred**

## Ramblers Worldwide Holidays



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Ramblers Worldwide Holidays Summer 2013 brochures are packed full of great holidays. Brochures available are - Worldwide Holidays for walks abroad almost anywhere on the planet, Countrywide Holidays for walks in Britain, Adagio Holidays for leisurely and more touristic holidays, and finally Cruise and Walk holidays. If you have not received a copy of their brochure, please call on 01707 331133 or email on [info@ramblersholidays.co.uk](mailto:info@ramblersholidays.co.uk). Alternatively, you can visit website [www.ramblersholidays.co.uk](http://www.ramblersholidays.co.uk). They will be happy to help with any query.

If you organise a Private Group holiday, you will benefit dedicated, personal Groups service and receive new benefits. If you have 10 or more people in your group, you will each receive one of our exclusive luggage straps – ideal for spotting your case on the airport carousel. With 16 or more you will also receive a 5% discount. And if you have 20 in the group, your group organiser will get a free solar powered mobile phone charger.

To organise such a holiday, call them on 01707 386723 or email them at [groups@ramblersholidays.co.uk](mailto:groups@ramblersholidays.co.uk). They aim to make your job as organiser as easy as possible – they really want to do all the hard work!

Ramblers Worldwide Holidays has a 65 year heritage. Whether you are an existing customer or new to them, they would be delighted to welcome you on one of their holidays in 2013.