

Note on CEC Walking Weekend in Gower Peninsular 7th/8th June 2019

On Friday evening we met Geoff Haden at the Dragon Hotel for a guided walk led by Stephen K. Jones. The route included places of engineering interest, taking in: - Brunel's South Wales Railway, the docks and the site of the Swansea & Neath line opening bridge over the River Tawe, plaqued by ICE Wales Cymru, and the site of Weavers Mill. It passed many places that Dylan Thomas mentions in his radio broadcast Return Journey, when he returned after the war to see the destruction of the whole of the centre of Swansea.

Key places - Swansea Castle which looks down on the area of Swansea rebuilt after the war. Wind Street - once the commercial area but now clubs and bars. Halfway down on right is the No Sign Bar - a Dylan haunt. We went down Princess Way passing the Cross Keys - claimed to be the oldest pub in Wales but bombed during war so not much original remains. Opposite is St Mary's Church also bombed in the war. Swansea Museum, which Dylan said was "...a museum that should be in a museum...". The Exchange Buildings where in the mid-1800s the world price of copper was set. Opposite is the Queens Hotel - another surviving pub in the Georgian part of Swansea. Ahead was the Pumphouse and Dylan Thomas Square on the right. In the square is the Dylan Thomas Theatre where Dylan was once a member, a Mumbles Railway exhibition (the oldest passenger railway in the world) and the Maritime Museum housed partly in the engine sheds of Victoria Station. The walk concluded with a meal at the Pump House.

On Saturday we drove to the National Trust car park at Rhossili by the Worms Head Hotel. We walked down to the beach and along the sand to the north end and left by the cliff path over Broughton Burrows and through the Caravan Park before taking the road to Llangennith Village for lunch at the Kings Head.

After lunch – we walked up the access path and over Rhossili Down which has spectacular views and passes the site of WW II gun emplacements/radar on top of the Downs before returning to Rhossili having walked 8.8 miles.

On Sunday we went by bus from Swansea to Parkmill for the start of the walk. We passed Pennard Castle and Three Cliffs Bay before joining the Coastal Path to Mumbles for lunch at the Mermaid having walked 9.8 miles. After lunch we had a half hour bus journey back to Swansea.

The walks were attended by 12 people.

Many thanks to Steve Jones and Geoff Haden for their invaluable assistance.

Tony Barber
June 2019





