

## THE ORIGINS OF CHEPSTOW HILL WALKING CLUB

Mr. Tim Brighthouse, the then manager of Chepstow Leisure Centre, advertised a meeting for anyone interested in forming a Hill Walking Club to meet at the Leisure Centre on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 1977. As far as I can remember this meeting was attended by myself ( Mike Birbeck ), Reg & Hazel Cave, David & Yvonne Cons, Derek, a teacher from the school, Andrew Harrison-Higgins and a friend of his, and possibly one or two more.

We decided to hold some evening slide shows, to see if the numbers of interested people increased, after a few evening meetings it was agreed we should have a walk on the third Sunday of each month starting on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 1977. in the Black Mountains starting from Llanthony Abbey.

It was also decided that we did not require any committee or officers as the purpose of the Club was to walk in the hills, so we only needed a leader to organise a walk each month, and we have operated this system successfully till the present day.

By 1978 our numbers had increased, early members were, Margaret & Ron Kinsey, Ted Atkinson, Ken Roberts, the Blaxland Family, the Jansen Family, and others whose names escape me.

The first weekend away was at Newport Pembrokeshire in October 1979, organised by Ken Roberts, where we walked on the coast path on the Saturday and the Preselli Hills on the Sunday.

To keep the cost of the accommodation down, on the weekends we would only spend one night in a Hotel or Guest House, leave Chepstow at 7.30.am, on the Saturday, enjoy a walk followed by an evening meal, bed and breakfast at the Hotel, then another walk on the Sunday, arriving home late in the evening.