

## 8 March 2015: Tintern Cross-Anghiddy Valley Walk

On a grey March Sunday morning, 16 members of Lower Wye Ramblers gathered at Tintern's Wireworks car park in defiance of a pessimistic weather forecast for a short walk. Ascending a steep and rather muddy woodland path beside a tumbling stream, the emerging stems of spring flowers allowed them to forget the light misty rain and contemplate how nice the scene would be on a sunlit spring day. Reaching a level stretch of forest track allowed a brief pause for breath and a stretch of forest road before continuing the climb up to Penterry Farm. The final stretch of gentler ascent was rewarded with the sight of newly born lambs experiencing their first days of life in a heavier drizzle and a stiffening breeze.



Arrival at Penterry Church provided welcome shelter in the church porch for a short break for refreshment.



Finally reaching the crest of the hill, the rain having vanished, the group descended past The Tout to follow a magical path down through Sychbant Wood, exiting on to a country lane which lead up to Fair Oaks. The final narrow woodland path, which traversed the side of the Anghiddy valley downwards, twisted and turned and demanded constant alertness for potential stumbling blocks. Ultimately, the path joined a forest road, allowing the walkers to heave a sigh of relief and walk the last few hundred metres back to the car park and concentrate on discussion rather than diligence. All agreed that it had been an enjoyable walk despite the weather, which, in fact, had not lived up to the gloominess predicted in the forecast.