

Llandough to Michaelston-Le-Pit Circular

4.5 miles, 2hrs 15 mins

By Penarth & District Ramblers for Llandough Community Council

A pleasant walk through fields and woods to visit the small hamlet of Michaelston-Le-Pit and its C13 church. Some sections can be **very muddy and slippery** in winter/spring so **boots or wellies** and a walking stick are needed outside the summer months. Please keep dogs on a lead when on farmland as fields may contain livestock. Map: O.S Explorer 151

The walk starts by the Llandough Baptist Church, Eastbrook Road, Llandough at the traffic lights below The Merrie Harrier public house.

- ST 16748 72413. Cross the stile beside the Baptist Church and follow the path beside the hall to a small paddock. Walk diagonally left across the paddock to cross a stile and bridge in the lower far corner of the field.

The small stream you are crossing is the East Brook, after which part of Dinas Powys is named.

- After crossing the bridge walk up the right hand side of the field with the hedge to your right. Cross the stile at the top of the field and continue beside the right hand hedge to cross a further stile. Now walk ahead and to the right to find a stile in the far right hand corner of the field by a single wooden electricity pole. Cross the stile and a short section of boardwalk to enter a larger field. At the end of the boardwalk turn left and head uphill while moving away from the left hand hedge line and aim for a gate and stile onto the Pen-Y-Turnpike Road when they come into view. Cross the stile and carefully cross the Pen-Y-Turnpike Road to take the lane opposite.
- ST 15964 72735. As the lane starts to straighten out enter the Woodland Trust car park on the left and cross it to leave via the gap diagonally to the right, by the notice board. Follow this broad track until it splits with the main track bearing to the right and a lesser used track heading straight on. Take the right hand track downhill and then shortly leave the track through a gap in the fence at the sharp bend in the track. After a few metres turn left at a T-junction of paths and follow the path through trees to cross a footbridge over the Cadoxton river. Turn right in the field and shortly pass through a small group of trees to go through a squeeze point next to a gate ahead to your left.

To the right, just above where the horses ford the river was the weir which diverted water along a leat to the header ponds for the mill in Dinas Powys.

- ST 15066 72219 Walk along the left hand side of this small field and then, just before reaching a wooden kissing gate ahead, turn left along a track. When the track bears right continue straight ahead through a squeeze point next to a gate and enter a field. Follow the grassy path ahead along the bottom of the field as it

curves to the left to leave the field through a squeeze point and join a stony track below the Cwm George rock face.

On the wooded hilltop to your left as you were walking through the field is Dinas Powys Hillfort. Once an Iron Age settlement, the multiple banks and ditches were added in the Dark Ages after the Romans had left Britain in 410 A.D.

- ST 14748 72348. Turn right on the track to go up the slope and pass through a kissing gate at the top. A second kissing gate a few metres further on takes you out of the Woodland Trust site and the track gives open views across fields. Stay on this track between the fields ignoring paths leading off to left and right to then head downhill and cross the Cadoxton River on a fine stone bridge.

The large house visible over to the left as you cross the fields is Cwrt Yr Ala. It is the fourth house to occupy this spot which was the site of the original manor house for Michaelston-Le-Pit. The current house was built in the late 1930s by the Cardiff industrialist Sir Herbert Merrett. Among many other achievements he was High Sheriff of Glamorgan 1934/5, chairman of the coal firm Powell Duffryn Ltd, chairman of Cardiff City Association Football Club (with one short break) 1939 to 1957 and awarded the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.

- ST 14756 73106. Turn right along the lane for around 170 metres to leave the road via a kissing gate where the road turns uphill and away from the river. In the field walk ahead for 50 metres, then follow the path diagonally to the left going uphill towards the houses. Pass a large oak tree in the middle of the field away to your right to reach a stile. Cross the stile and take the path ahead between the houses to reach a track where you turn right and come to a road and the Village Green.

The houses you have just passed (Norman Cottages) are named after Flying Officer Norman Merrett, a RAF pilot who died during WW2 and son of Sir Herbert Merrett. His grave is in the churchyard.

- ST 15110 73053. Continue ahead along the road to pass the well, the telephone box, the pretty row of houses running to the left and then shortly go through the church lych-gate on the right to enter the churchyard. Follow the path around the church, passing the old yew tree to your left and then down the steps to leave via a gate on the left at the end of the grass. Turn right on the road and after a few metres cross the stile on your right next to a way-mark post. The path runs through some trees and then down a few steps to enter a small paddock. Cross diagonally to the left to pass over a footbridge and then go left. The path joins a track for a few metres, then meets an access track to some barn conversions. Cross the access track diagonally to the right to then cross a stile to the right of a farm gate.
- ST 15221 72784. Walk along the left hand side of the fields following the river. After another two stiles you re-enter the Woodland Trust site. Continue ahead for around 35 metres and then turn left over a wooden bridge. On the far side turn left again, along the grass, and on passing a larger oak the field opens up. Here go diagonally uphill to the right, to walk along the top of the field beside

the trees. The grass slope down to the river is on your left. Ignore a path leaving to the right through the trees, and shortly after it pass a memorial bench. After passing two distinct lone oak trees in the field to your left, follow as the path curves up to the right through the trees to then turn left on the gravel track into the car park. Leaving the car park turn right on the road. At the second gateway on the left leave the road and climb the stile.

- ST 15802 72814. Walk diagonally uphill across the field to cross a stile in the top left hand corner and enter a narrower field. Again walk diagonally left across the length of this field to cross another stile in the far right corner and emerge on a lay-by. Go left to reach the road and take **caution crossing the road** to the gateway and stile opposite. Follow the path along the right hand side of the field and around 50 metres after walking under some electricity wires look out for (not easily spotted) a stile on the right by the overgrown corner of the wall surrounding University Hospital Llandough.

If you do not want to return to your start point continue straight ahead with the hospital boundary wall to your right to reach Lewis Road.

- ST 16213 73045. Cross the stile and follow the path with the wall to your left for 15 metres, then before reaching the next stile, take the path that splits to the right. This path loops out and then back to the wall (this is the true line of the footpath, at the time of writing most people just walk by the wall, but that line is likely to be fenced off for building work in the near future). On rejoining the end of the wall go right and downhill with a car park beyond the fence to your left. Follow left at the bottom of the slope with initially a fence to your left, and then the wood slatted retaining wall of the car park to your left. At the end of the wall turn left up the grassy slope between car parks to reach a pavement and turn right along it. Pass car parks to your right and on meeting a side road running across your path, walk around the corner a couple of metres to the crossing point and cross to then take the gravel path straight ahead of you. The path goes downhill and bends first to the right and then left. Stay on the path to reach Corbett Road and then turn left along the road to return to the traffic lights by The Merrie Harrier public house.

Take a look at the sewerage manhole covers at the lower end of Corbett Road. One has "Penarth Sewers" on it and the other also has "Evans Llandaff". They were made by the Evans Eagle Foundry adjacent to the Glamorganshire Canal lock at Llandaff in Cardiff. The foundry opened in 1861 and finally closed during the 1930s.