



FOREST NEWS

Editor: Ronnie Walker

Forest of Dean
Group

NEW MEMBERS



A very warm welcome is extended to new members who have joined the Group since the last Forest News.

Membership is now 211. (Down by 5) : New Members required!

PROGRAMME DEADLINE

- **July 2017 to October 2017 programme.**
e-mail: walks@fodramblers.org.uk

Details of walks for the next programme should be submitted no later than 3 **June**, directly onto the Group website if possible (www.fodramblers.org.uk), or to the walks co-ordinator. Any member, whether old or new, is welcome to lead a walk. Anyone who wants to borrow books of walks or who needs help to organise a walk, please contact any Committee member.

A big thank you goes to everyone who has led a walk since the last newsletter was published.

NORTH WALES WAY 2017

I propose to complete the North Wales Way by doing three days rambling in North Wales based at Rhos-On-Sea from 23th April to 27th April 2017. If anyone is interested in joining me please let me know.

There will be 35 miles of rambling, including the climbing of the Great Orme and the Little Orme on the same day.

Ronnie Walker.

ZEBRA'S COMING TO THE FOREST SOON.

This picture of a zebra was taken on a 12 mile walk, 11th Oct 2016 near Weston under Penyard, Chase Wood. It was a bit of a surprise to see zebras in a field near Ross. We thought it was a joke at first. However Barbara Fisher sent in the photographic evidence!

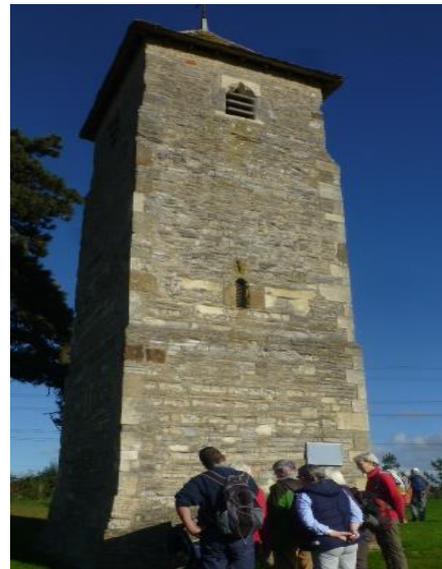


LASSINGTON CHURCH

Well, on the End of Summer ramble (2nd Oct 2016), we came upon a church tower without the rest of the church.

The church was deemed unsafe in the 1970's and was closed and demolished in 1975. The last marriage was held in 1947 and last baptism in 1956.

The tower now stands alone watching over ramblers and walkers of the Wysis Way.



Please note the blue sky,

See you soon, Ronnie

Bishop's Castle Walking Festival in the Shropshire hills 13 – 17 May 2017.

Welcome to the friendliest of walking festivals!
www.WalkingFestival.co.uk

Bishop's Castle is a small market town surrounded by the wonderful Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, near the Welsh border and off the beaten track. It is a welcoming place and a walker's paradise.

The eighteenth walking festival offers a great choice of five different walks every day – all beautiful, all guided by local people who know the area. They take walkers over wide open

hilltops, through winding valleys, tiny hamlets and ancient hill forts and there are amazing views.

The walks are informal and friendly, often ending in a café or pub. There are five evening events planned. A good choice of accommodation is available and a very interesting little town to explore.

THE BEST EVER RAMBLE...

Please look forward to the best 8.5 mile ramble ever...

Even the lack of sunshine did not dent the beauty of the tracks from Christchurch to Edge End, nor the views of the forest from the field above the Bicknor Road, nor the crazy Wysis Way route through the Christchurch forest. Even the last mile and half of uphill slog back to Bracelands and the Christchurch campsite shop seem to be a joy to savour.

The ramble will be on the July to October programme. Do you have a best ramble?

Editor, Ronnie

EXPLORING HISTORIC DEAN

Get your copies from the Treasurer or Secretary. Or even me!!!

Editor
(Ronnie Walker)

Email addresses

If you haven't wanted to let Ramblers at a national level have your email address but would be happy to give it to your local group, please send it through to membership@fodramblers.org.uk. We use email to notify members that a new programme has been published, send out information about special events and holidays and issue notifications of unavoidable and unexpected changes to walks, for example a road closure near the start point.

Have you changed your email? Please let the membership secretary know. We can't change the national database, or even request a change on your behalf, but we can alter things at a local level.

GO Outdoors: Extra Discount

GO Outdoors are offering members of Ramblers a further 10% discount off the 10% discount card. That means a minimum of 10% off the RRP with the discount card plus another 10% of for members of "Ramblers". All you need to do is show your Ramblers membership card as proof of membership at the payment desk in store.

Breaking news...

If you can get out of BED on the 6th May 2017 at 4:30am and motor to Mallards Pike for 5:30am then Jackie will be there to take you on a ramble to listen to the Dawn Chorus.

Editor, Ronnie

Information for Leaders:

New information has been posted on our website under the "Leaders" section which reminds leaders of the need to report any incidents or near misses occurring on their walks to Central Office (copy to our Secretary too please) to comply with Ramblers' insurance. Follow the appropriate link for guidance on what constitutes "an incident" or "near miss" and for a copy of the form, completion of which can be done online.

Central Office has devised a small A5 laminated check list for walk leaders which also contains advice on actions to be taken in the event of an incident as well as First Aid advice for treating injuries provided by the British Red Cross. If you would like a copy please contact Jackie via email secretary@fodramblers.org.uk or ask her on a walk.

FROM THE EDITOR

I will endeavour to keep it simple. Any News for future publication gratefully received.

More stories welcome.

Editor
(Ronnie Walker)

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Footnote:-

Whenever I feel the need for taking exercise I go and lie down until the feeling passes.

George Bernard Shaw.