



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 200. (We lost 6 members)

PROGRAMME DEADLINE

- **July 2020 to October 2020 programme.**
E-mail: walks@fodramblers.org.uk

Details of walks for the next programme should be submitted no later than 4th 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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

The AGM was held on Friday 8th November 2019 at Yorkley Community Centre.

My thanks go to Peter Robbins (Chairman) and Jackie Huck (Secretary) for presiding over the AGM. The formal reports done and has our Membership Secretary (Lynn Stockley) as stepped down from the role, we welcomed Ann Linden as her replacement.

The evening concluded with a few words from Bernard Gill, who then proceeded to do the free raffle to distribute prizes not used at the holiday in Grange-Over-Sands.

Thankfully I missed out on a prize, so had to console myself with tucking into the "bring and share supper".

See you all later in the year at AGM 2020,

Ronnie Walker
Editor

Aberystwyth 2020

A five day, four nights, three rambles from and to Aberystwyth. The trip will take place during the period Wednesday 29th April 2020 to Sunday 3rd May 2020.

If you would like full details, they are available from Ronnie Walker.

Xmas 2019 Lunch report

The Xmas Lunch 2019 was attended by 47 members. The Xmas Lunch was staged at the Orepool Inn, near Sling. It was reported that all had a good time and the food was excellent. The service too was up to scratch.

Peter and Jenny Robbins were delighted with the response and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

I, the editor, hope that we all had a good and peaceful Christmas too.

Ronnie Walker,
Editor.

WHY?

Why? Oh, why, would you please explain
Do you go rambling in the pouring rain?
Where's the pleasure, where's the gain?
I do declare I think you're all insane.

Why do you venture across moors and bogs?
On days like these I wouldn't turn out my dogs.
Why go hiking in hail, sleet and snow?
Please give me a reason for I'd love to know.

Why, when winter winds are blowing a gale.
Won't you stop in, have a glass of mulled ale?
Instead, with your rucksack and gear from your locker,
You're tackling 12 miles. Have you gone off your rocker?

Why, when it's freezing, don't you stay warm in bed?
It's a 15-mile ramble; have you gone off your head.
Why is there a group of people like you?
Out in all weathers? Are they all crackers, too?

Why laugh and joke when you're wet to the skin?
There's an asylum nearby. I bet they'd take you all in!
Why? For the life of me I can't understand.
You stop gasping for breath, yet insist you feel grand?

Why, when your feet are blistered and sore?
Say you enjoyed today's walk, could have done six miles more?
Why walk those wet fields and climb muddy stiles
When there's nothing but nettles and thistles for miles.

Why climb those steep hills when a path goes round?
The reason, I guess, is your minds are unsound/
Why, when they've invented the car, bus and train?
Do you still insist on walking 20 miles in the rain?

Why, when the forecast says rain on your tomorrow

Do you give a grin instead of a grimace of sorrow?
I don't understand. Give me a reason as to why.
I give a shrug and smile, neither do I.

This is a poem by:-

John O'Connor, Ex Bolton Rambler.

Gallery



I made it to the top – well just about.

The Editor,
Ronnie

Jackie's back yard – a visitor's report

We, Stefan and Ms B (of Old London Town), joined the Forest of dean Ramblers for a four-hour (plus half an hour lunch break), 10 mile walk around the Forest of Dean last weekend. We arrived at The Nags Head pub in Yorkley more than half an hour before the time. Jackie, our leader for the day, was already there and greeted the first few hiking enthusiasts who had arrived with us. Quickly the numbers rose to 18 hikers and Jackie warmly welcomed everyone and introduced us to the other members. Our walk was called "Jackie's Backyard", because Jackie lives right next to the route and knows every last corner inside out. She made sure that everyone kept up a brisk pace and didn't mix this hiking tour up with a casual walk in the park. Until the lunch break, when we sat down for 20 minutes on a few random rocks in the middle of the Forest, to eat our packed lunches, we only did one other proper stop. At Mallards Pike next to the large pond we bought some tasty, fresh coffee at the little café and sat down for just under 15 minutes. The other stops along the way were usually just for a minute or two, to allow Jackie to talk about the next section of the route and throw in a bit of background information and history. Despite the fact that it had not rained in a week, there was still a lot of mud involved

and we were glad that we were wearing our heavy hiking boots. There are a couple of great viewing points on the way, from which, on a clear day, you can see the Severn Bridges. However, during the day it gradually became mistier and foggier and started to drizzle more and more frequently. The running gag within the group was to point into the thick fog and then talk about the great views you *would* have, if you'd have them, often in great detail and with gusto.

Editor: It's nice to know, that our nice group does impress visitors. The above is extracts from Stefan's blog. (berkeleysquarebarbarian)

Ronnie Walker
The Editor

Nature corner: The MOORHEN

Moorhens are blackish with a red and yellow beak and long, green legs. Seen closer-up, they have a dark brown back and wings and a more bluish-black belly, with white stripes on the flanks.

They eat water plants, seeds, fruit, grasses, insects, snails, worms and small fish.

Length: 32-35cm, Wingspan: 50-55cm, Weight: 250-400g

This bird species has different identifying features depending on sex/age/season.

The Editor
Ronnie

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% off 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.

EDITORIAL CONTACT DETAILS

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Late News:-

Footnote:-

*** *To walk in the woods is to witness a thousand miracles – Mary Davis* ***

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