



FOREST NEWS

Editor: John Sheraton

Forest of Dean
Group

NEW MEMBERS



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

Membership is now 222.

PROGRAMME DEADLINE

- **November 2013 – February 2014 programme.**
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Details of walks for the next programme should be submitted no later than **26 September**, directly onto the Group website if possible (www.fodramblers.org.uk), or to Henry. 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.

Many thanks to anyone who has led a walk since the last newsletter.

DAVID FISHER



Well-known group member David Fisher died suddenly whilst out cycling on 5 April. David enjoyed his life to the full and spent much of his time cycling and walking with his friends. He had been with the Group for over 9 years and was a popular and well-liked member. He was always had something amusing to say and we knew we could rely on him. He was a keen supporter of Group holidays and had planned to join the recent trip to the Gower. He had been married to Margaret (Maggie), his second wife, for only seven months (photo). David's funeral took place on Thursday 18 April at Christchurch Parish Church. The church was packed with his many friends and family members. The service was conducted jointly by the local vicar and a close friend of David's: a vicar he knew from his time in Basingstoke. The British Legion played the Last Post and walkers and cyclists formed a guard of honour as the coffin left the church. Refreshments were provided in English Bicknor village hall. David will be missed by all those who knew him. Our condolences go out to his widow and daughters and their respective families.

CHRISTINE CLEMENTS

It is with sadness that we report the death on 6 February last year of Christine Clements. Her husband, Ian, led many walks for the Group over the years and is still a Group member. Our condolences go to him and the family.

WYE VALLEY WALK (1)

The next 26 miles of the Wye Valley Walk were successfully accomplished by seven members between 21 and 25 April, with the previous 7 miles being repeated on 21st, as it was so wet last year. The transport to and from the walk worked well and was a welcome sight in the afternoon. The weather was mixed, with some showers and wind, but Tuesday was glorious. Day 1 was from Tynant to Rhayader via the Gilfach Visitor Centre. Day 2 was from Rhayader to Newbridge, a mixture of riverside, farmland and hills, with a very bouncy bridge over the River Elan just before it joined the Wye. Day 3 to Builth Wells included some lovely riverside walking, with lunch at Plum Tree Pool. After a wet start on day 4, the sun came out and a well-earned tea and cake stop was made at the old Erwood Station, before finishing at Trericket Mill across Wales' only wooded slatted suspension bridge at Llanstephen. Then it was back to Builth for dinner at the Greyhound Hotel to round off the trip. Thanks to Alan, Barbara, Sue, Jenny, Catherine, and Graham for making the walk so enjoyable. (Ronnie Walker)

WYE VALLEY WALK (2)

Several of the WVV 'regulars' were unfortunately unable to take part on the above dates, so a repeat walk was organised for 2 – 6 May. Five of us followed the same itinerary, although we were based at the Rhayader campsite, and used car shuttles to get to and from the walks. We also had good weather with only the odd shower. Particularly memorable was the walk over the hills before descending to Erwood, with glorious views of the Wye and surrounding hills. Three of us did an additional walk around Aberedw Rocks before travelling home. (Ed.)

QUIZ NIGHT

The Quiz Night, held at the Miner's Arms at Whitecroft on 28 February, was, as always, a great success. Quizmaster Henry, ably assisted by June, was his usual knowledgeable self, although I expect him to write out 100 times "The first Ford car factory was at Dearborn". The evening was rounded off by a good meal, as well as the odd (and even) beverage.

GOWER HOLIDAY

Fifteen members of the Group enjoyed three nights at the newly refurbished Oxwich Bay Hotel overlooking the wonderful bay. They were very generous with high quality food and service, and the weather was kind, if a little cool at times. There was a choice of walks of varying lengths and terrain, including magnificent sea views, marshes, beaches, quiet country lanes, and ridge walking at Cefn Bryn and Rhossili Downs. Some members took the opportunity to visit Oxwich and Weobley Castles, as well as doing nature rambles and bird watching. Look out for details of next years' holiday later in the year. (Alan Fisher)

TONY DRAKE MEMORIAL WALK (1)

Sheila led a lovely walk from Prinknash on 22 May, as part of an Area-wide tribute to the late Tony Drake, a stalwart supporter of our public right-of-way network (see last issue). We met up with several other Gloucestershire Groups at Hambutts Field, Painswick for a picnic lunch and memorial event. Speeches by Benedict Southworth (Ramblers CEO), Janet Davis (Ramblers Footpath Officer), Kate Ashbrook (Ramblers President), and Mavis Rear were followed by the unveiling of a very attractive wrought iron signpost right on the

