



# 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 217. (Down by 9)

## PROGRAMME DEADLINE

- **November 2016 to February 2017 programme.**  
e-mail: [walks@fodramblers.org.uk](mailto:walks@fodramblers.org.uk)

Details of walks for the next programme should be submitted no later than **7 October**, directly onto the Group website if possible ([www.fodramblers.org.uk](http://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.

## AGM

The Group AGM will be held at the Catholic Church Hall, 4 High Nash, Coleford GL16 8HL at 7 for 7.30 pm on Friday 4 November 2016. Do come along and learn what we've been doing for the last year and have your say on what we should do over the next twelve months! Please bring something for the 'bring and share' supper afterwards, which provides a good opportunity to socialise with fellow members, some of whom can no longer walk regularly with us. Tea, coffee, and fruit juice will be provided.

## Thanks to Mike Ingleby and welcome to Pete Robbins:

Mike Ingleby has tendered his resignation as Chair stating he has found it increasingly difficult to fulfil the demands of the role, to the standards that he would expect, whilst pursuing his expanding interests in walk leading. Mike went on to say that he would still be leading walks for our group.

Our thanks go to Mike for all that he has done during his time as Chair. He has succeeded in raising the profile of Ramblers' walks locally, arranged walking holidays in Dunster and The Lake District and contributed in no small part to making our group one of the most admired in the county for its varied walking programme. I am sure you will join the committee in wishing Mike well in his future walking adventures.

The committee is pleased to announce that, following its meeting on 10th May, Pete Robbins has agreed to take on the role of Chair with immediate effect and at least until the next AGM when formal nominations and voting on the new committee will take place. We are extremely grateful to Pete for taking on this responsibility and I know he will have everyone's support.

Jackie, Secretary

## Additional support needed for the sale of our walks leaflets and Exploring Historic Dean:

We now have a straight forward and simple system place for selling our walks leaflets (Beechenhurst, Highmeadow Trail and Soudley Circles) and John and Rod's wonderful book, Exploring Historic Dean. Our thanks go to John and Jean Sheraton, Barbara Fisher and Carol Lambert for helping to get this in place. We are currently linked to six outlets as well as selling via our website which, thankfully, Malcolm Shergold takes good care of.

Essentially one person is linked with a specific outlet and acts as the main point of contact for delivery of stocks and issue of a standard invoice. Our Treasurer deals with the money! The Lodge at Beechenhurst is due to reopen in June and there is a new Tourist Information Centre in Coleford. We need volunteers to link to these two potential outlets so if you think this is something you wouldn't mind doing then please get in touch with me. This is not a big commitment, especially if you live close or regularly travel to or near the outlet, but it does work best if you are on email. We are also open to having other outlets stocking our leaflets and book, so if there is somewhere you know and you are willing to be the contact person, just let me know.

Jackie, Secretary

## May Hill Walk

The North Dean Walking Group has published a walk leaflet entitled 'May Hill Walk' which celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a walking group in 2014. The walk is a fairly strenuous 9.5 mile (15 km) circuit with several climbs but the walker is rewarded with wonderful views in clear weather. 2 shorter circuits of approx 6 miles each can also be taken using the same leaflet. The leaflet gives a detailed description of the route taking in Mitcheldean, May Hill and Longhope with a clear map drawn by Rod Goodman and very informative notes on features of interest along the way by John Sheraton. The leaflet is currently available for sale from Dean Heritage Centre, Mitcheldean Library and the Escape outdoor shop in Ross-on-Wye.

John Sheraton

## Thinking of leading a walk.

All walk leaders started off wondering if they could successfully lead a walk and all of them have done just that! So if you are thinking about leading but you are not sure what it involves, please chat to one of our experienced leaders. Leaders are also very willing to help you put on a walk by

helping you decide on a route, do a walk over with you to check things out and generally support you until you feel confident to go it alone.

The best advice I had before I led my first walk was to keep it simple, walk in an area you know well and not to worry about whether the walk has been done before – its walk and we are all here for walking!

We would particularly welcome walks in the Forest area of between 4 and 8 miles and if you are not sure about putting a route together why not choose one from our book, Exploring Historic Dean, each walk has lots of information and very clear route directions. So if you fancy giving it a go, have chat to any leader as you are out walking or just go for it by contacting Maurice ([walkscoordinator@fodramblers.org.uk](mailto:walkscoordinator@fodramblers.org.uk)) for access to the on line programme planner.

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## Footpaths matter: YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

As a registered charity, one of our aims is to work with relevant statutory bodies on footpath issues and to make sure that walking routes we promote are in fact walkable. In the past, and for many years, Rod and Sheila did sterling work on footpath issues. They were of course supported by other members but each took on a vital lead role and since their “retirement” it is fair to say that things have rather drifted. Progress has recently been made and we are lucky to have Chris, Adrian, John S, Irene, John B and Ian who have all volunteered to “look after” our three trails whilst Maurice (supported by a band of helpers) will lead working parties. If you fancy some footpath maintenance and would like to be part of Maurice’s gang please have a chat with him about giving it a go.

The one area we urgently need some help is dealing with planning permission applications which either impact on a footpath or are applications to divert a footpath. This is vital for keeping us walking so we really need:

- A link person to liaise with the LA planning office. The Area Footpaths Officer currently does this for us but that is only a temporary arrangement and it will cease soon.
- A team of people who are willing to be called upon to check out any applications in their local area which don’t look sensible from a walkers’ perspective.

If you are interested in volunteering for this, or need to find out more about what is involved, please contact me for a chat. Jackie, Secretary

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## NORTH WALES WAY

The North Wales Way, which runs from Bangor to Prestatyn. I was taking the picture of the Ramblers who set forth on 3 days of rambling from Bangor to Llandudno (34 miles). They are Carol, Lynn, Sarah, Alan, John, Phillip, Ian and John with Barabara in front of them. The climb from the sea front at Llanfairfechan to Plas Heulog (on the North Wales Way), was awesome. Thankfully we started at Abergwyngregyn and took the coastal path to Llanfairfechan, so we were warmed up before the climb. The cycle/footpath from Bangor harbour towards A55 was very pretty. The climb up to the top of the Great Orme was epic, the Great Orme is indeed great!!! We were based in Llandudno and were blessed with blue skies and

sunshine during our stay. My thanks to all 9 ramblers pictured below for their company and wit. There is unfinished business along the North Wales Way, so there will be more next year!!!



This is a small report upon the stay in Llandudno from 20<sup>th</sup> April to 24 April 2016. **The Editor, Ronnie Walker.**

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## THE NEWSLETTER QUIZ – Where Am I?

The quiz uses Map References:-

Point 1 SO672232, Point 2 SO706193, Point 3 SO711232  
Point 4 SO684198

If you join point 1 to point 2 and point 3 to point 4 you will create a cross, where they intersect is where I am.

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## 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](mailto:secretary@fodramblers.org.uk) or ask her on a walk.

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## FROM THE NEW EDITOR

I will endeavour to keep it simple. Any News for future publication gratefully received. *(Ronnie Walker)*

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## GROUP WEBSITE

This can be reached either via the national Ramblers site at [www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk) and searching groups, or directly at our own site [www.fodramblers.org.uk](http://www.fodramblers.org.uk)

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## EDITORIAL CONTACT DETAILS

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Footnote:-

*All ramblers were once pretty babies.*