



# 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 216. (Down by 1)

## PROGRAMME DEADLINE

- **March 2017 to June 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 3 **February**, 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- 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016!!

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.

Posts needing to be filled are Membership Secretary and walks co-ordinator. We will also welcome some new committee members too. Download last year's minutes from the web address <http://www.fodramblers.org.uk/publications/minutes>

## Bridleways, footpaths, etc!!

In recent months there have been Public Rights of Way notices on the routes approaching the National Trust on May Hill. These refer to the footpath from Bearfoot (near the water tank) over the Hill to the dry stone wall at the County Boundary with Herefordshire.

The plan is to upgrade the public footpath to a bridleway. I looked into the legal side of this from the book "Rights of Way" (a guide to law and practice) and discovered that it is not allowed to create a Right of Way whether it is a footpath, bridleway or byway, to come to a dead end, which this order does. At the Gloucestershire/Herefordshire border May Hill Common is in Herefordshire and is a footpath only and bridleways are supposed to go from a metal road to a metal road. Gloucestershire has no say over Herefordshire and vice-

versa. The maps on sight have now been removed and the order has been shelved for the foreseeable future.

I am astonished that Gloucestershire Rights of Way Dept. went ahead with this order without working with Herefordshire Rights of Way and created these orders together. This now means that an order has to be created in Herefordshire and a new order in Gloucestershire.

What a waste of money!

R.J. Cox

## NORTH WALES WAY 2017

I propose to complete the North Wales Way by doing 3 days rambling in North Wales based at Rhos-On-Sea from 23<sup>th</sup> April to 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017. If anyone is interested in joining me please let me know.

**Ronnie Walker.**

## THE NEWSLETTER QUIZ – Where Am I?

The quiz uses Map References:-

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

There were no winners – The place was May Hill's trig point 296 metres above sea level. No quiz this time.

## SCULPTURE TRAIL'S MISSING PIECE

The words on the bricks in the ground near the sculpture trail are:-

### Farewell to the Forest

You broad valleys, you hills O beautiful green woods  
The pensive home of both my joy and sorrow

Away from you, ever deceived the busy world rushes by  
O encircle me once more in your green canoe

A quiet earnest message is written in the forest  
Of how to live and love aright and what man's core maybe

I read those words with faith, words plain and true  
And through my whole being they shone unspeakably clear

Soon I'll have to leave you as a stranger in foreign land  
And watch life's pageant on bright and lively streets

And in the midst of life your solemn power  
Will exalt me in my solitude and so my heart will not grow old

Words after Joseph von Eichendorff written in the early 1800's

## EXPLORING HISTORIC DEAN

A great Christmas present – BUY your friends a copy-NOW.

Get your copies from the Treasurer or Secretary.

Or even let me know,  
Editor  
(Ronnie Walker)

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## TWO BRIDGE'S ONE SUNNY SUNDAY

The 11<sup>th</sup> September 2016 ramble was across and back across the Old Severn Bridge, which was opened by Queen Elizabeth II and HRH Philip Duke of Edinburgh on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1966. So it was a happy 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary to the bridge. From which you can see the Second Severn Crossing. Questions were asked about it, such when was it opened and by whom.

Well here is the answer:-

The Second Severn crossing, the end of the river Severn itself, was opened on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1996 by Charles Prince of Wales



Editor and leader of the ramble in question.  
(Ronnie Walker)

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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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## MAPPING AND LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

There will be a workshop for leaders and interested members. See the walks programme for full details. Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2017. It will be held at the Rising Sun, Mosley Green, So book your place NOW!

Editor  
(Ronnie Walker)

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## Winter walks followed by Christmas lunch at 1.30pm

Saturday December 3,  
2016 at 10:00 am

6.0  
Miles

OL14

Grid Ref:  
SO573134

Meet: New Inn, Ross Road, Shortstanding, GL16 7NT  
4 mile (start 11am) and 6 mile (start 10am) winter walks, then a roast turkey Xmas lunch, Xmas pud, brandy sauce/cream, tea/coffee, mince pies £15

35 LUNCH PLACES ONLY, £5 deposit to Jackie Huck reserves a place or cq to FOD Ramblers c/o P Robbins  
41 Cornpoppy Avenue Monmouth NP25 5SD

Leisurely - Moderate

(P. Robbins)

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## 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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## EDITORIAL CONTACT DETAILS

Telephone: 01594 845225  
email: [ronaldwalker335@btinternet.com](mailto:ronaldwalker335@btinternet.com)

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*Footnote:-*

*All ramblers like cake with tea or coffee.*

