



# WWW Walkers Web Words

[www.chesterfieldramblers.com](http://www.chesterfieldramblers.com)

News Issue 27



Editor and Publisher: Basil Merry

January 2014

## January thoughts

In Roman mythology Janus was the god of doorways and passageways depicted as having two faces giving the ability to look both backwards and forwards.

2014 is the centenary of the start of the First World War which will dominate reviews. A bicentenary with a local connection falls on 25 July when it will be 200 years since George Stephenson built and showed off his first steam engine, Blucher. He went on to have a great impact on the railways, and Chesterfield in the process.

Looking forwards we can anticipate a substantial walking programme, and the full participation of the Group in the May Walking Festival.

We can expect to see Derbyshire County Council under greater financial pressure and they may seek to make positive use of volunteers to achieve 'greater community involvement in managing rights of way'.

Walking for Health will also change with the accreditation plans coming into effect. These may encourage some participants to 'step up' to the Ramblers'.

Perhaps 2014 will be the year when we start to increase our membership. Please encourage others to join and get actively involved in the Group this year.

*\*DCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Statement of Action 2013 -2017.*

## Walking for Health (WfH) – the next steps

In Issue 26 we mentioned the accreditation scheme adopted by walking for Health (WfH) which aims to encourage people who have got fit through health walks and want to do more challenging walks to move on, leaving local WfH schemes free to concentrate on the least fit and active walkers.

The new accreditation scheme due to be introduced in March will require schemes to ensure that all their walks fit the definition of a health walk – an easy regular, accessible walk that encourages participants to walk briskly, but takes no longer than 90 minutes.

The WfH National team estimate that a third of walks currently do not fit the definition. Now, schemes will be offered support to ensure that longer walks can continue if required, but outside the WfH programme.

Nobody will be forced to join the Ramblers' but that is one option. Shorter easier walks would have to be incorporated into a walks programme to achieve this.

Central Office will be making further announcements shortly.

## Membership and News

We ended 2013 with a Group membership of 542, thanks largely to the transfer of members from the now disbanded Bolsover Group. We must aim to maintain and increase our membership this year.

The Winter SYNED Area News was sent electronically to 218 email addresses (many covering joint membership), and by the year end 79 responses had been received. A 36% response rate is not bad for such an exercise and we assume the others either didn't read the News or couldn't be bothered to respond.

The significant point is that 243 copies of Area News were posted out at a cost of 50pence each. This also entailed our Membership Secretary in sticking labels, stuffing envelopes, and transport to the post box.

The importance of an email circulation list is clearly demonstrated.

The winning respondent, drawn at random, was David Staniforth who will receive a small prize shortly.

## New Members

Since the last full Issue we welcome Susan Vodden, Michael Watson, Jill Lawrence, Dawn Parker, Fiona Cameron, and Anne Stokes

We also welcome Peter Everitt, Roy Cannon, Mrs M Clutterbuck, Mr B. Bilby, Mrs J Munkley, Miss I McCormick, J Rowland, John Richardson, Julie Clarkson, Shirley Lander, Mr Candlin, Mrs V Woolley, Rita Reed, S Wright, G Sausse, J Woodward, Mrs Woodward, E Smithurst, Philip Clayton, Mrs J Clayton, Lee Charity, Jean Hull, Margaret Smith, Jane Woodward, Anne Leadbetter, Alan Walpole, Miss J Munkle, Donna Copcutt, Mrs Copcutt, and Tom Minskip, who have transferred from Bolsover Group.

Also David Mann who has transferred from New Mills Group.

Please make them all welcome.

## First Aid Course

The Group has arranged another 1 day certificated first aid course at the St John Centre, Derby Rd, Chesterfield for members on February 28. Some car parking is available.

Booking is essential, and numbers are limited. Priority will be given to walk leaders and those engaged in footpath practical work.

All enquiries to the Footpath Secretary, Mel Hardy, on [mhardy5771@aol.com](mailto:mhardy5771@aol.com) or 01246 472805.

## More money for local paths?

You may have heard that Derbyshire County Council (DCC) is cutting the funding given to the Peak Park to promote tourism. The budget is being reduced by £30k of its £250K.

What you may not be aware of is the intention is to promote instead other parts of the county with North East Derbyshire being specifically mentioned. DCC has become aware of Hardwick Hall, Bolsover Castle and Creswell Crags and wants these and the surrounding areas given more emphasis.

Hopefully, this will include ensuring that it is possible to walk between Bolsover, Hardwick, and Scarsdale Hall using public footpaths, which are currently subjected to repeat cropping obstructions.

## Walking Festival 2014

The brochures for the Chesterfield Area Walking Festival 2014, which runs from 10 to 18 May, are now available from the Visitor information Centre, Tapton Lock, and usual outlets.

Details can also be found on [www.chesterfieldwalkingfestival.co.uk](http://www.chesterfieldwalkingfestival.co.uk). Booking is strongly recommended by email to [tourism@chesterfield.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@chesterfield.gov.uk) or phone 01246 – 345777/8.

## Access Land new entrance

A new stile has been put in on Fallinge Edge at SK276662. This is potentially a very useful link. There is a path climbing up from Northwood which goes past Little Bumper Piece to join the Rowsley Bar Road at SK256659.

More or less directly across the road there is access to the moor and the new stile is 200 metres to the North on the National Park Boundary. This gives access to Fallinge Edge and the moor which stretches towards Beeley Moor.

Be warned the walking is rough until a route is established by some feet on the ground.

*Derbyshire Area Access Officer.*

## A country point of view – An unspoken problem

People like to use their cars to drive to villages for a day's country walking. Often they try and avoid (pay) car parks and use the road side without a second thought for the local inhabitants.

Sadly walkers are seen as an unspoken problem by some villagers and a curse a lot of rural communities are lumbered with. The drive out to villages and park up for half a day.

If they end up in a local pub or café they are at least making a contribution to the local economy. One Yorkshire village has an honesty box for visitors to put something in as a goodwill gesture for parking.

In 2014 please try and consider the local residents and minimise parking in the centre of villages where there is limited parking e.g. Longnor.

*Yorkshire Post – 4 January 2014*

## Glow in the dark paths

A UK based company Pro-Teq is currently testing Starpath, an ultra violet powered glow in the dark surfacing that they hope will revolutionise the way we light our public spaces.

The resurfacing process can be sprayed directly on to concrete, tarmac, or other hard surfaces, drying in minutes and causing minimal disruption. It is waterproof and can be used with anti-slip finish.

While the surface isn't bright enough to replace street lighting it in effect creates a starry walk through a public park, for instance. The material is currently being tested in a Victorian park in Cambridge.

[www.slate.com/blogs](http://www.slate.com/blogs)

## In and around Weymouth

In the first week of December a group of ten from the Ramblers' set off on a 5 day coach trip to Weymouth (mentioned in Newsflash 69 – August 2013), with an opportunity of 3 days walking.

On the first day a coastal walk was planned taking us to Chesil Beach and around the Isle of Portland. Sites visited included an 18<sup>th</sup> century church where we were welcomed by locals decorating the church for its second only of only 2 annual services.

We then continued round the Portland stone quarries from where stone for the building of St Paul's Cathedral was obtained. The path on the Eastern coast rose steeply, passing Rufus Castle, now in ruins and clinging to the hillside.

On day 2 we travelled by coach to Dorchester and after a brief walk around the market town we visited Maumbury Rings, constructed as a Neolithic henge monument then later converted by the Romans to an amphitheatre, well preserved and impressive today.

We continued our walk South West of the town and over the chalk down lands to where the magnificent Iron Age hill fort of Maiden Castle is situated. We enjoyed a leisurely stroll around the ramparts and were full of admiration for the construction skills of these early settlers.

On day 3 we elected to visit tourist attractions and routes of our choosing, either on foot or by public transport.

*Clive Hart December 2013*

## Memories of The South West Coast Path

85,000 foot of cumulative climb, 454 miles completed, 176 miles to go. During May and Sept. 2012 and 2013 Dave and Ros Jackson and Shirley Lander walked the South-West Coast path, with the aim of completing the 630 mile path in Sept 2014.

### **The Lows:**

*The day we got drenched to the skin.* Yes, to date there has been only 1 day out of 44. We fortunately found a tea shop that didn't mind us dripping all over the floor whilst we consumed another cream tea. .

*The winds.* Occasionally very strong. At least 1 diversion inland to find a more sheltered route.

*The steps.* Faced with yet another flight of steps going up out of a river valley, can we really complete it? Yes we can!

*The climbs.* Yet another severe up and down, Can't believe I've got so far.

*Exhaustion:* After a particularly hard day.

### **Highlights so far:**

*The flowers.* We have never before seen such a profusion of colour and types. Sheer joy.

*The Birds.* Looking down on a hovering kestrel and seeing the beautiful feather colours that are hidden when viewing from below.

*The Views.* Blissful, often breathtaking, and unexpected variety between areas. Its not all sea and cliff. Memories of sitting in the sunshine on a cliff looking at the views to Bure Island. Can the view heading over cliffs to Salcombe be beaten for sheer spectacle and beauty.

*The Geology:* In other words, the rocks. Shades of brown, yellow, green and blue, jagged and rounded, holes and arches. Some bursting with foam as the sea crashes through. .

*The walking:* Exhilarating. Lots of climbs and lots of descents with some leisurely bits in between.

*The Buses:* Sitting on the top deck of a double decker wondering whether the bus can pass down some of the narrow, tree lined lanes without its top being torn off.

*The Ferries.* All different varying from the larger ones from Falmouth to St Mawes or Cremyll to Plymouth, to small dingys. A particular highlight, a rubber dingy across the River Erme.

*The giggles.* So many it is difficult to remember. Shirley getting locked out of her room, Dave scrumping (from trees on the path), Ros giving herself a black eye after an altercation with a rock on a beach! (not funny at the time, the air was blue!), the aforementioned rubber dingy trip.

*The b and B's.* All very different, all good.

*The towns and villages:* so pretty, so welcome and often so interesting.

*The cream teas.* Everybody likes a cream tea.

Thank you South West Coast Path Association which provides all the information needed to walk the path and whose volunteers are continuously working to ensure the path remains open and passable.

#### **Conclusion.**

Can't wait until May to complete another stretch of this wonderful, awesome path. What are we going to do in 2015 that will top it.? Suggestions please on a postcard.....

*Ros Jackson*

## **Obstructed by turnips!**

As we approach summer we can be prepared for crops obstructing footpaths – seemingly the same paths every year.

The most problematic is obstruction by oil seed rape but are you aware it is a member of the turnip family? The word 'rape' as applied to oil seed crops is derived from the Latin word 'rapum' that means turnip.

Rapeseed crops have been cultivated for at least 4000 years but only on a commercial scale in Europe from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Then it was used for lamp oil but prior to that in soaps and similar goods.

A Swede (swede!) Carl Linnaeus noted the crop improved soil and it improves the yield of following crops, particularly wheat. One interesting point is that it shouldn't be grown too regularly in the same fields as there is a risk of disease build up in the soil.

The rapid expansion of the production of oil seed rape came from the Common Agricultural Policy in the 1970's when European subsidies were given.

Linnaeus is known as the founder of the modern scientific nomenclature for plants and animals and has a uniquely influential position in natural history.

[www.agriculture.com/crops](http://www.agriculture.com/crops)

*Chambers Biographical Dictionary, Ninth edition*

## **PDGLA**

The December 2013 Newsletter is available on request.

## **Ton up**

This is full Issue 27 of WWW and there have already been 73 Newsflashes which means that this is the 100<sup>th</sup> publication.

Issue number 1 was in July 2007 when the circulation was made to around 50 email addresses.

Contributions on Group activities and its members are always welcomed. If you feel you can make improvements to the presentation or material the opportunity is there.

[cnedra@btinternet.com](mailto:cnedra@btinternet.com)

## **Important Date**

**25 January 2014** – SYNED AGM at the Woodland Discovery Centre, Ecclesall Woods, Sheffield . 2.30 p.m start with a morning walk from the centre at 10.30 a.m.

*The Ramblers' Association is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. Company registration number: 4458492. Registered Charity in England and Wales number: 1093577. Registered office: 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Camelford House, 87-90 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TW.*