



TAUNTON DEANE RAMBLERS NEWSLETTER 15

ROGER'S RAMBLINGS

WINTER 2007/SPRING 2008.

In a year where I have been lucky enough to spend some time abroad I have reflected on the rich heritage of footpaths and rights of way that we have in this country. As far as I can tell it is pretty unique, especially in the way in which many of them became established by custom and tradition. In New Zealand, in spite of having some wonderful countryside and structured trails and long distance routes, there is little in the way of the sort of countryside walking we are so used to in our patch. Yes, there are footpaths in many places, but they are usually of a 'permissive' nature and not a right. A similar thing goes in France, The Grand Randonees (long distance paths) are excellent and enshrined in legislation. Also many towns and villages have networks of paths, but nowhere near as extensive as we enjoy. The message is: that we need to appreciate what we have and do everything we can to ensure that our traditional rights continue. A couple of ways that you can help is by walking the 'grid squares' as promoted by Paul Wright, reporting any blocked and poorly maintained paths, help the Parish Footpaths Officer and/or join a footpath maintenance working party. As the advertising slogan goes "use it or lose it".

The programme continues to have its usual mix of walks, and I am very grateful to all our leaders for their dedication and commitment. Without them there would be no programme. There is always room for new leaders. Just give Joan a call and don't be shy or apprehensive, there is plenty of help available to get you started.

Wassail **Roger**

PRE AND POST CHRISTMAS MEALS

These have been booked for 7th December and 13th January. Please book your places by dates given below (or before to be sure of a seat)!

There will be a 5 mile moderate walk before the Post Christmas lunch starting at 10am

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Pre-Christmas Dinner – 7th December

7.30 for 8pm at The Square & Compass, Ashill

A traditional carvery meal with a vegetarian option plus dessert.

I/We would like the vegetarian option
 Fill in box with number required

I enclose a cheque made out to Taunton Deane Ramblers for £.....(£13 per head)

Name(s).....

phone.....

email.....

Send to Mike Whitmore, 72 Comeytrowe Lane, Taunton TA1 5QG by 23rd November

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Post Christmas Lunch – 13th January

12.30 for 1pm at The Greyhound Inn, Staple Fitzpaine

Roast beef or pork or vegetarian option with a choice of starter or dessert (to be made on the day)

I/We would like the vegetarian option
 Fill in box with number required

I enclose a cheque made out to Taunton Deane Ramblers for £.....(£14 per head)

Name(s).....

phone.....

email.....

Send to Joan Gubbin, Greenway Thatch, North Curry, Taunton TA3 6NH by 29th November

NOTICE OF AGM

Notice is hereby given that the AGM of the Taunton Deane Ramblers will take place on 23rd November at Taunton Library Meeting Room at 7.30pm.

CHANNEL TO CHANNEL

Over the four months of December to January John Lowe and Geoff Lloyd will be leading the group across the West Country from Seaton to Watchet. It is 6 years since Jim Hurst did this same crossing and for those who have not done it before the walks promise to be varied and stimulating. Building on the success of the coach bookings for the Parrett Trail we plan to have a coach pick us up from the Crescent car park in Taunton to take us to the start of the walk and then to collect us at the end. This will reduce our 'carbon footprint' and enable us to doze in the coach after a bracing day out!

Please ring John on 490400 at least a week before the walk to book a seat on the bus – if there are not sufficient numbers we will have to car share and details of the walk start will be given to those who have booked and put on the website.

COLERIDGE WAY

This is a 36 mile (58km) walk that goes from Nether Stowey to Porlock, via Holford, West Quantoxhead, Monksilver, Luxborough and Wheddon Cross. It is pretty hilly, but with wonderful views and excellent pubs/tea rooms on the way. The walk is being done in a number of half day legs of about 5 miles each, with transport laid on to the start and from the finish each time (*there will be a small charge to cover the cost of this, and you must book with the leader in advance*). The programme will run on selected Sundays from Easter until August 2008 (*see programme for dates*). All those that complete the route will receive the formal certificate from the scheme organisers. There is a special website (www.coleridgeway.org.uk) for the walk. Contact Roger (270754) for more details

GROUP HOLIDAY 2008?

Ideas for a Group Holiday will be on display at the AGM – come along and see what is on offer.

AREA AGM 16 FEB 2008

We are hosting the event this year so please note the date in your diaries – it would be great to have a good turnout. There will be a short walk in the morning before a picnic or pub lunch followed by the meeting. See Programme for details.

THE USE YOUR PATHS CHALLENGE – MAKE A DIFFERENCE



The deadline for walking all the footpaths in Taunton Deane has been extended to the end of December. With a final push we can complete the last few squares.

PRIZES...!

To encourage members to join this worthwhile exercise we will be putting the name of the person who has walked each square into a draw and there will be a cash prize for the name drawn at the end of the year. The more squares you do the better your chance of winning so get walking!

Paul Wright (Footpaths Secretary) is acting as co-ordinator. To find out which squares still need to be walked contact Paul on 01823 667554 or email paule.wright@virgin.net.