



SLR Newsletter Summer 2014

www.stokelodgeramblers.wordpress.com

A Summer message from the Chairman

Neville Brewis reports

Hello everyone

Hopefully you have all enjoyed a good three months of walking since the



weather improved over the last quarter. The highlight for me was David McGregor's wonderful Waterfalls walk in the Brecon Beacons National Park at the end of April - see the Waterfalls walk link on our website for the story and photos.



Your Committee met at the end of April and we have progressed/discussed the following items:-

- We have decided to reduce the number of Newsletters that we formally issue to members from four (one per quarter) to two (Summer and Winter). We will continue to use e-mail communication and website postings to cover any key information and also use the two Club social gatherings in March (Spring Social) and October (AGM) to communicate any necessary hard-copy material and verbally remind people of upcoming activities. The two Newsletters that we will produce are timed to coincide with the issue of the two Walks Programmes each year.
- Xmas lunch 2014 plans
This year we will be going to Clevedon

Golf Club on Thursday 11th December for our Xmas meal and there will be the usual short and shorter walks on offer beforehand. Further details of menu choices, walks and payment will be arranged/communicated around the time of the AGM in October. Thanks go to Dick Dennett for the organisation of the event this year.

- Annual holiday updates
2014 — 35 members have booked to go to the HF Houses at Lulworth Cove in Dorset from October 10th - 13th. Walks to suit all participants have been worked out by myself and the HF leaders.
2015 — A booking has been made to go to the HF Haytor House on Dartmoor for the weekend of October 9th - 12th. Haytor is a large house which can cater for all levels of walking ability and it is hoped we can take a party of 40 - 50 members. More details to follow later in the year.

- First aid training update
As mentioned in the last Newsletter and at the Spring Social, we are running a First Aid Training session for walkers in conjunction with St. John Ambulance. Thanks to the efforts of Janet Thomas, this has now been arranged for the evening of Wednesday July 2nd at Shirehampton Public Hall from 6.30pm - 9.00pm. Of the eighteen members who indicated they were interested about twelve are available on this date, but if other members want to be involved, please can they contact either myself or Janet for details. We plan to make a donation to St John Ambulance for the training provided.

- Kissing gate installation
The kissing gate sponsored by the club to mark our 30th anniversary has now been installed at the site near Compton Martin in the Mendips. On March 22nd Don and Pat Walter were present at the installation event jointly organised by

Mendip Hills AONB and the Mendip Ramblers Club. Photos from the day are now on the 30th anniversary page of our website. We plan to visit the kissing gate on our walks (short/medium/long) in the next few months – see new Walks Programme for details.

- **Your COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU - search for new committee members.**

Two of our longest serving stalwarts on the Committee, Dick Dennett and Ian Hopley, have indicated that they both wish to stand down in October so we are looking for new "blood" for the Committee. If you are interested in helping out please can you contact myself or any other member of the Committee. The duties are not arduous – we meet four times a year and help run the two social gatherings in March and October.

- Spring Social 2015
We are looking at both a new venue and speaker options for this popular event in late March 2015. If members have any suggestions we would be very pleased to hear from them. Currently Sue Hazelden has made a tentative booking at Kings Weston House for a talk on its history and tour of the house on Friday 27th March 2015.
- Please remember to visit our website www.stokelodgeramblers.wordpress.com for news updates, photos from recent walks and changes to the walks programme etc.

And finally

Since the Committee meeting we have had the sad news of the death of Betty Legg who will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Our sincere condolences go out to David and the family - see the Obituary for Betty later in this Newsletter.

Enjoy your walking.

Mid-year update

A report from the Treasurer

We are once again in a good financial position for this stage of the year. We have 126 members, and about a third attended the Spring Social. We didn't completely cover the costs this time, but the loss can be absorbed.

Income from the Ramblers' Walking Partnership has been spent on resources for Walk Leaders and materials for the course David Hayes led. We continue to benefit from membership of HF, and we are now insured through them.

A few members have now signed up to receive all mailings by email rather than by post, so do get in touch with Margaret Ruse (margaret.ruse@btinternet.com) or myself (sue@hazelden.org.uk) if you'd like to join their number.



The Rag Well Gate

Don Walter relates a very special day on the completion of the Rag Well Gate

Pat and I were most impressed with the work done by Mendip Ramblers on the new Kissing Gate which is now complete. The site is very attractive and close by the Compton Martin Rag Well.



I think that the word rag means a hard stone, often limestone, of which this Well is certainly built. It is fed by a spring and probably was a dipping Well for the locals who grew food in the triangular patch called The Wrangle. But it is also understood that people did, and indeed still do, attach rags to nearby bushes when they make a wish at the Well. More research required! It has been agreed that the gate should be named Rag Well Gate which would draw the attention of walkers to the well.

A brass plaque is to be made which will be headed "Rag Well Gate" and underneath "Gate donated by Stoke Lodge Ramblers to celebrate their 30th anniversary" or words to this effect.

Betty Legg

28th July 1920 - 3rd May 2014

Dorothy Morris writes

It was a very sad day when Betty died peacefully in hospital on Saturday 3rd May. Unfortunately she had a fall as she got on the boat on the way back from the Isle of Wight. Betty and David had been staying with their son Philip and family. She was taken to the BRI but died of a heart attack. David was with her at the time. Hazel, their daughter, has been very supportive.

Betty will be sadly missed by David, all her family and many friends.

Extract from the Memorial Service

Many of Betty's friends attended her Memorial Service at St Monica's where she had lived for 6 years, and learnt a little more about her life from her daughter's address. Despite being diagnosed with a hole in the heart

whilst at school and not allowed to play games, Betty walked well into her 60s when her heart caught up with her and she had to have an operation. On leaving school she worked in a shoe shop in Dartford. She was a trained chiropodist and met David when he went to have his verucca attended to. They were married for 72 years and during that time lived for 25 years in Glasgow where she sailed, camped and walked; in the 1960s they moved to Dar es Salaam where she collected shells - these are now in the Cardiff Museum. She and David moved to Bristol in 1985 and she continued to sail for another 5 years. In her 80s she learnt to use a computer and shopped on line; she was still making marmalade at the age of 93. She will be missed by her friends at SLR.

March Social Evening

Susan Bartlett reminisces on an evening on the Downs with Mandy Lievers

The Social evening was as always, a most happy time.



Our Speaker was Mandy Lievers who I think of as one of the Great Guardians of our Downs. She is actually the Education Officer for the Avon Gorge and Downs Wild Life Project. You can often see her on the Downs in all winds and weathers with school children and families, introducing them to the rich and varied



biodiversity of this wonderful area within our city. Much work is being done to

conserve the Downs landscape and to allow the rare as well as the common plants to hold on to their habitat. This involves people abseiling down to "weed" the ledges on which plants particular to the Gorge cling. Mandy told us where to look for the goats which are doing a similar job, as many in the



audience had not seen them. If we want to see the Gorge flora without risk to life and limb, there is the little Gorge Garden, just on the right as you walk across the Clifton Suspension Bridge. There was so much to tell us Mandy left questions until supper time. From the interest shown by members I fear she did not get a chance to eat much of the delicious feast provided by everyone, but at least she knew she had a very appreciative audience!