

# Newsletter

Stourbridge Group

Secretary

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ramblers

at the heart of walking

## My Rise To Fame (or just Chair)

I joined the Stourbridge R.A approximately 8 years ago after retiring from the N.H.S. Walking has always been an enjoyable past time, and as my husband no longer walked (due to dodgy knees), joining a walking group sorted the problem for me.

At my first meeting at Mary Stevens Park, I found a very welcoming group of ramblers, and felt accepted immediately. Luckily, Jennifer joined around the same time, and we became friends. We felt like the kids of the group, and marvelled of the ability and ages of the members. It gave us a new lease of life.

Over the years, with the subtle guidance of Walter (Vice-Chair), Jennifer and I started to lead a few walks. We became involved in the social events such as keeping score at the skittles and maintaining an orderly queue of bowlers. In the kitchen with Margaret and Maureen at Brian's fabulous Murder Mystery evenings, which were acted out by our own talented members, and so our confidence grew.

Alas, over the years our group has depleted in numbers due to various reasons. We remember these members with great fondness, and always look forward to meeting non-walkers at the social events to have a chat and a catch up.

Our lovely Stan, had been our Chair person for as long as I can remember, and his presence on our walks, social events and meetings always added an element of humour and song. Over the last few years, Stan could be heard to say "This is my last year as Chair person" but he was always re-elected for a further year. Then, SHOCK, HORROR, last year Stan actually resigned, UNTHINKABLE!!!

So the hunt was on for a new Chair person. There was no rush of applicants!

Rose's name was put forward, as she had some experience in this role, but at this time she had other commitments, so couldn't take on a full time position. "...you need a job share" say I. The rest is history.

At the October 2013 AGM Rose and I were duly put forward as candidates as joint Chair persons. The proposal was seconded, and we were elected. Stan handed over his books and Gavel, wished us well, and the process was complete. Rose and I became the official Chair persons of the Stourbridge Ramblers.

## What does a Chair person do?

After 'googling' this, it does appear that it is an important job, incorporating things like ensuring the meetings are functioning properly; that the organisation is managed effectively; and to provide support and supervision. It is expected that you get things done, make decisions, stimulate and inspire. Good qualities include, impartiality, firmness, tact and common sense. The list is endless. What have we let ourselves in for?

Despite this, I at least, but I believe I speak for Rose as well, look forward to being joint Chair and working with the committee, to ensure the future of Stourbridge Ramblers.

Yes we do need new members, and yes we do need the support of all our existing members. We need everyone to participate in walks and social events, and continue to enjoy the countryside and the company for as long as we can. Thank you all in anticipation for a healthy walking year!

Margaret Darby (Joint Chairperson).

Ashley Bromley.



Aspire to inspire before you expire.



More good weather and plenty of time to relax.



Many thanks to Barry and Tony for photos and Margaret & Daphne for their articles and Eileen for the "Quotes" as without them this would have been a very sparse Newsletter. A final thank you to Jill for organising the Trip to the Rose Theatre with Tea and cakes to socialise over.

## LUNCHEON - 28th March 2014

This was a new time for us having lunch rather than our usual Annual Dinner in the evening. The venue was Blakelands and it proved popular too, with 43 of our members attending; having had snow last year it was a good move. Instead of snow though we had a good downpour when it was time to leave which was a shame as we couldn't explore the grounds. However, I'm sure this didn't dampen our spirits having had a lovely meal with convivial company. We didn't get wet though thanks to Barry who was the sturdy knight armed with a brolly for those of us who were in need! He's always there to lend a helping hand as is Tony (S) when he's able. We had a lovely room to ourselves and the staff were both welcoming and attentive. It was nice to welcome friends who, due to difficult circumstances, have been unable to take advantage of walks and other activities. We were also able to wish both Hilary and Margaret special birthday wishes. So 'thank you' Rose for booking this venue and thanks too to Meryl & Bill for all the hard work involved in the organisation and I, for one, look forward to next year's annual event.  
Daphne

## WALK LEADERS.

Or perhaps the correct title should be "lack of them". Unfortunately apart from the temporary indisposition of the 2 ladies on the previous page we have lost quite a few Walk Leaders due to increasing age and deteriorating health. Fortunately a few new leaders have come forward but not sufficient to fill the gap and hence on the first edition of the Summer programme we have gaps and dropped the Summer evening walks. Can we please have some help not only from the people who attend our Walks but from the members we never see. Amongst you there must be many experienced and good walkers who do not normally like walking in a crowd of people who should be able to sacrifice one or two Sundays a year to lead a walk for us. For anybody who is prepared to have a go there is help available. Please ring Barrie on 01384 238586. It has also been suggested that we do not wish to lose the knowledge of the retiring Walk Leaders and so Barrie is prepared to start a library of Walks we have led. So please look up your old references and maps and see what you can pass on

My wife and I had words,  
but I didn't get to use mine.



## The Future.

We need help and ideas. We need to publicise the new Adventure section and the Web site and it would be nice if we had help in compiling The Newsletter. I can still put the final thing together if needs be, but I am running out of ideas to keep it fresh and cheerful. The Editor

I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.

## New Members:-

Nick Eaves  
Alan & Joy Barton  
Peter & Kerry Bradley  
Paul Ashbery  
Brian Hughes  
George & Jennifer Andrews  
Tim & Jenny Sunter  
Pauline Lane  
Ernest Ingram

A warm welcome to you all. If we have not seen you out on a walk yet we hope you can join us in the near future.

The shorter walks are very leisurely and the medium ones not bad, if you are feeling particularly energetic then join Rod on his Adventure Walks.

Can I draw your attention to the different types of walks on the Walks Programme. On Sundays and the first Tuesday there are the normal Long, medium and some short walks with a coffee and your own sandwich Lunch stops, the remaining short walks only have a coffee stop, while on the 4th Wednesday the ultra short walk is followed by an optional Pub Lunch to which all members are invited. To complete the normal programme on the 4th Saturday of the month Tony and Meryl lead pioneering walks usually medium to long lengths and further afield. The Adventure Section has its own Agenda decided by its members, up to date information can be obtained from our Web Site

[www.ramblers-stourbridge.org.uk](http://www.ramblers-stourbridge.org.uk)

## Snowdrop Walk



This was led by Tony Smith and even if the Programme did not show it as such, it is one of our traditional walks. The route may vary but the second main attraction is the Snowdrop display in Tuckhill churchyard and the main one the Tea and cakes supplied, for a donation, by the Ladies in the church. This year they were even more fantastic, so book next year now!!!!