

THE NEWSLETTER



January 2018

News

Welcome to New Members

As we enter the New Year with our first Newsletter of 2018 it is only right to welcome new members who joined in the last months of 2017.

We are pleased to extend a warm Tavistock Ramblers welcome to Sue Uglow, Stuart Oldham, Jane Ingram, Edwin Hawke, Ann Ruddock, Miss A Smith, Gill Courtis, John Guppy, Helen Bryant, Derek and Christine Youds, David Williams, Waldon Lewis, Jo and John Milner and Roger Cornish. For those who are counting, our group has grown from 158 a year ago to 181, a new high so we are delighted that there are more of us to share our lovely countryside and each other's company.

We would like to say a big "thank you" to Sue, our Membership Secretary, who had to work overtime sending out welcome packs. We hope we can keep her busy in 2018! Sorry Sue.

Committee Changes

At last year's AGM we said that our group had to prepare for significant changes in the Committee and organisation in 2018 when Rosemary, Graham, Sarah and Malcolm will stand down. This will require succession for Walks Coordination, Footpaths, Secretary and Chairman. We can report encouraging progress to fill some of these vacancies, but we are not there yet.

Paul Brookes, with help from the newly formed Walking Sub Group (more about that later), has started to shadow Rosemary to ensure a smooth handover in the preparation of the all important walks programme which is at the heart of everything we do. Rosemary has done a super job over many years coordinating our walks but the Summer Programme will be her last. The next Winter Programme will be overseen by Paul but with Rosemary sharing her considerable experience during this transition. We thank them both for their invaluable contributions to keeping us moving.

Locally we have some of the best managed footpaths in Devon, in part due to the work of Graham over many years as Footpaths Officer. He will be a hard act to follow but we are delighted that Bill McOwan has come forward to work alongside Graham in coming months to achieve a smooth transition and to protect our footpaths and access. Many thanks, Bill.

That leaves the positions of Secretary and Chairperson. For the group to have a constitutional Committee we need to fill both these positions, so our search goes on. If, as you read this, you might be interested in either of these positions later this year please have an exploratory chat with any of the Committee.

Remember, a chat does not mean a commitment!

Launching Our Subs

At the AGM we said that we would set up two small sub groups, one on walks development and another to improve our targeting and coordination of publicity. This was to achieve a sharper focus in these areas by bringing together a small team of experienced people to take us forward and to widen participation from the membership.

Both groups have met and already made a number of key recommendations. These relate to walk start times, first aid, leader recruitment and training, walk programme preparation and others. Thought has already been given to our holiday in 2019 but an early priority is to attract more leaders to support the excellent work that our established leaders do and on whom the whole group depends.

The current Walks Sub crew, under Captain Rosemary, are Paul Brookes, Lynda Williams, Long and Longer John and Graham.

The crew of the good ship Publicity comprises Malcolm, Long John, Ros Smallman, Hannah Griffiths, John Dixon and David Simkins. The first priority of this group is to develop a more active presence on Facebook and improve our profile in local magazines and newspaper by being more proactive in both.

We have had an encouraging start to both groups and we would like to thank everyone for being prepared to get involved and support Tavistock Ramblers.

Being Social

Liz and Peter Luff took over the reins of our Social Programme at the end of last year and what a great start! We knew from the Christmas party that Liz had her A level in tea making and Peter could part members with their money in his raffle management. Then, of course, we had the "Pie Walk". This was the brainchild of Paul in 2016 when about 30 came to walk from the Fox and Hounds and returned to a menu of different pies. It was an instant success. In 2017 the numbers for the pie fest exceeded 40 and this is now established as a firm favourite.

We know that our members are busy people so make note of a few important dates in your diaries. Our annual dinner is on 23rd March to be held again at the Tavistock Golf Club. Some time away but the Summer Party will be on July 20th. Details on these and other events will follow in due course.

All that remains is to say we hope you have survived the winter and the festive seasonal bugs but the good news is that Spring is in the air. We all look forward to more drier walks in coming weeks and months.

Kind Regards from your Committee.

Malcolm

Chairman, Tavistock Ramblers (Email: malcolm@mapchatt.co.uk)



Your Committee

Malcolm
Sarah
Peter W
Rosemary
Graham
Peter L
Liz L
Sue W

Name that Tor

There was only one correct answer naming the tor on the last Newsletter.

Bill wins the prize for spotting that it was Hound Tor.

On which tor did Long John see the rainbow overleaf? (There is a clue in its name when you think of all the rain we have had).

Another prize for the first to identify it.

Devon Area AGM

Don't forget that you need to register if you want to go to the Devon Area AGM on February 10th.

See the Devon Area website for details.