

Letter from the Chair. September 2017

The AGM will be on 11th November 2017 and I am ever hopeful that I will see you all there. The record for under attendance is 14. Make it more please.

We are going to have a morning walk of about 6-7 miles around Chandlers Ford. Those of you who joined Richard's walk there recently will know how much open space there is amongst the housing developments. There are some lovely wooded areas, some very posh houses, a lake and all sorts of paths to explore. We may get lost - but not very.

Then to tempt you further, there will be refreshments after the meeting, which will begin at 2.00. Cyril Nias is making some cakes, and you will not be disappointed!

To end the afternoon, Chris Bond, our current Rambles Secretary, has arranged a talk by Colin van Geffen entitled 'Airfields of the New Forest'. This should appeal to those of you who know the forest well and enlighten those of us who have been there but would like to know more. I understand he is a very knowledgeable speaker on all things aircraft related.

The Committee has several very able people who give up some of their time to provide the members with a full programme of walks and social occasions. The role isn't onerous, although some very nice things have been arranged for us during the last year.

I want to appeal to you to stand for election this time. We really do need a Secretary to take the minutes at our meetings. We meet 6 times a year for about 1.5 hours. There are occasional notices from head office that need to be disseminated. The AGM Notice will be appearing on the group website in the next month or so. Please look at the posts coming up for review and give serious consideration to volunteering. Thank you.

I mentioned that the group has been involved in doing more than just the usual weekend walks. We have realised that they tend to be longer than some people want. That is down to the people who offer to lead them, obviously. However, more variety is down to those of you who do the leading. A new initiative has begun, in an effort to broaden our appeal. Mid-week walks are arranged at short notice via the walks programme and email. These are on either a Tuesday or Thursday morning, being roughly a distance of 5 miles. Those who don't have access to email can be notified by phone, if they let Cyril Nias know.

The group had two walking weeks away this year to do the LDP 'The Two Moors Way' in Devon. As always, it was very enjoyable and a chance to socialise as well as walk. Thanks to Pauline Francis for the initial idea. Where next? If anyone has a long held wish to do something like this raise it at the AGM.

We had the chance of a canal boat ride on the Basingstoke Canal in May. Unfortunately the banks had subsided and the day was postponed till September. It rained, but it was something different, half the group walked up and barged back and vice versa with the other half.

Next year Richard Kenchington has proposed we join Angela Holidays' trip to the Dordogne where we can either walk independently of the tour operator, or join the included excursions. Several members have already committed to the holiday.

The dinner club continues to meet about every two months. The next one won't be until after Christmas. Then there is going to be the opportunity for more people to get involved in its organisation. Chris Bond has given up her time so far to do it. She would like to have a break. So get thinking about where you have been for a good meal, which might make a good venue. Chris will do one more in the New Year then it's over to you.

The committee is currently organising this year's Christmas ramble and lunch. Notice will follow shortly.

Lots more walks still to do before then, so I will see you all soon, I hope, either on a walk or at the meeting!

Roni Sansome.