

FESTIVAL OF WINTER WALKS

The Lower Wye Group held two very successful walks as part of the RA Festival of Winter Walks. The first on Boxing Day saw twenty-four members and guests start from the Boat Inn at Chepstow and follow the Offa's Dyke Path over the old Wye Bridge out to Woodcroft and on to Wintour's Leap where coffee was taken. Still following the Offa's Dyke Path, the group headed for Tidenham before cutting across farmland in beautiful winter sunshine to return to Woodcroft and retrace our steps to the Boat for a welcome warming drink.

Undeterred by the ravages of New Years Eve, and the very low temperatures of New Years Day, a party of 27 assembled at the Skirrid Inn near Abergavenny, for a 5.5 mile morning walk over the Skirrid. The party set off at a brisk pace to increase body temperatures but unfortunately the mist at all levels cut out the magnificent views normally inherent on this walk. To offset this, many frost patterns appeared on all of the trees and bushes, which were a boon for the photographers in the party. A hasty coffee break was taken somewhere in the mist, before the climb continued to the summit, which became very crowded when another group also appeared. A steep descent and a long walk back to the start was followed by a very welcome lunch at the Skirrid Inn, which rounded off the half day in fine style.

These are just two examples of the variety of walks provided by the group. The new spring/ summer programme will be published mid February and can be accessed on our website www.lowerwyeramblers.org.uk.