

## Seat Dedicated to the Memory of Neville Littleford

Exactly a year after his sudden death forty-eight friends of Neville Cyril Littleford RIP met at the Crown Inn in Woolhope, Herefordshire to return to the place of his last walk and to dedicate a seat in his memory. This was paid for out of the magnificent £950 that has been donated to Neville's Memorial Fund.

The 4 mile walk organised and led by the retiring chair of Ross Ramblers, Ian Foster, started at 10am and field paths were followed to Sollers Hope, Herefordshire. Progress was inevitable very slow as the huge group negotiated many stiles, but this gave more time for reminiscences about Neville and his huge generous personality. On his last walk when he at the age of 84 years led the Tuesday group of Ross Ramblers they had just left Sollers Hope Church when he died and permission had been given by its Parochial Church Council for his memorial seat to be sited here with a splendid view of the church and the surrounding countryside.

The walkers gathered round the seat as the vicar, the Rev Crispin Pemberton led the short ceremony of dedication sprinkling the seat with blessed water. He spoke of Neville's many years' service to Ross Ramblers and his passionate enthusiasm for the countryside and background history of the walks he led. A friend of Neville's Allan Ricketts gave the gathering the apologies of Neville's widow Thelma Littleford who intends to visit and see the seat in the spring. Allan also showed the gathering Neville's collection of thirteen fabric long distance walk badges which he has inherited and which have been kindly sown on an old haversack by Yvonne Watkins. Pride of place going to the seven British National Trails, Neville completed the Cotswold Way (102 miles) the Cleveland Way (109 miles), the Offa's Dyke Path (107 miles), the Pembrokeshire Coast (186 miles), Peddars Way and Norfolk Coast Path (93 miles), West Highland Way (95 miles) and the most difficult of all the National Trails the South West Coast Path (631 miles).

After the ceremony much appreciated cake, home-made biscuits, tea and coffee were served in the church by a parish group. The walkers then returned the two miles to the Crown at Woolhope where a special lunch menu had kindly been provided by the landlord.

More info from Allan Ricketts 01989 565077



Yvonne     Alan     Heather