**CAMBRIDGE RAMBLING CLUB (Affiliated to HF Holidays and the Ramblers)**

**AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2020**

**A message from our President, Jenny Urwin**

Dear Member

I hope you are all staying well and managing to keep positive during these disorientating times. It has often been difficult to strike a balance between remaining safe indoors and choosing to meet a friend or friends outside. I am pleased that many Club members have felt able to join informal small groups for walks in the countryside. The benefits to our physical and mental health are immeasurable.

Looking ahead, we hope to restart some ‘official’ Club walks from September onwards. Our usual four month Programme of walks will not be produced at the moment but information about official Club walks will be available on the CRC website or from individual Programme Secretaries. Whilst this may be considered inappropriate for all Groups at the moment, I feel it is a significant step forward which I welcome.

Thank you all for your support

Jenny Urwin

**Resuming ‘official’ CRC walks**

The Club’s Executive Committee met online in July to consider whether to resume ‘official’ walks – and if so, how to progress in a cautious and responsible manner. The opportunity has now arisen because the Ramblers’ Association, which is the ‘national body for walking’, has been given the authority by the Government to develop a framework of guidance for walking and rambling clubs and organisations. Following guidelines developed for resuming ‘recreational team sports’ means that the Club can now organise walks for up to 30 people. The Club has group membership of the Ramblers and we have checked that we can proceed – implementing the new guidance in full.

Three documents have been prepared which spell out how we can now offer ‘official’ walks. All of these are posted on the CRC website, under the **‘Members’** section. If you have no access to the website, please contact Jill Tuffnell to be sent copies. For everyone planning to come on a walk, it is important to read ‘***Taking part in a CRC walk’*** and a copy is being distributed with this newsletter***.*** Anyone offering to lead a CRC walk must read ***‘So you want to lead a walk – a guide for leaders’*** and is requiredto complete a ***‘Risk assessment’*** in advance – the third document.

This all sounds very daunting – but it is basically common sense and has the over-riding objective of reducing the risk of transmitting Covid-19 through close contact between people and through touching surfaces or equipment.

The Club’s Committee knows that not all of our regular groups want to resume an ‘official’ programme of walks at present and there is no pressure to do so. There is certainly no desire to restart large group walks any time soon! However, a group may like to consider arranging a trial ‘official’ walk, with numbers limited to 6, 8 or 10, to see how it goes.

All informal walks arranged by the different Club groups

are unofficial and therefore not covered by CRC Insurance. However, it is expected that the safety of participants will remain a priority. It’s also important to note that anyone on a walk, both unofficial and official, is required to provide their name and contact details in case ‘NHS track and trace’ gets in touch.

The Club’s website will be updated whenever there is a change in guidance from the Ramblers.

**Future Activities**

**Note on ‘\*budget’ trips:** Unlike our ‘coach & hotel’ trips, the Club’s ‘budget’ trips primarily make use of budget hotels or self-catering properties, booked both by the Club and by individuals directly. Travel is usually in members’ cars. Bookings are handled by Jill Tuffnell. Offers of help in leading walks are very welcome!

**\*East Grinstead, Sussex ‘budget’ trip – Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th October 2020 (2 nights**) Walk the North Downs and Ashdown Forest from the Travelodge in the town centre. Please book yourself in if you would like to join us. This will be an ‘official’ Club trip with ‘A’ walks guaranteed. Contact Jill or see the website for details.

**\*Wells-next-the-Sea ‘budget’ trip, Friday 5th to Monday 8th February 2021 (3 nights):** The Club has booked 3 properties for a long weekend on the north Norfolk coast in early February 2021. The cost is £75 per head, with a deposit of £25 payable now and the balance of £50 due on 1st December 2020. Please contact Jill for details for a BACS payment, or send her a cheque payable to ‘E G Tuffnell’.

**Brecon Coach & Hotel Trip** – **Friday 26th to Sunday 28th March 2021**. **(2 nights)** The Club has booked the Castle Hotel, Brecon, for our March coach/hotel weekend. There are still places available in a mix of single, double and twin en-suite rooms. Brecon is a lovely town in the middle of the National Park, with its own cathedral, museum, canal etc. See :<http://www.breconcastle.co.uk/> . We plan to arrive in time for a walk on the Friday afternoon or an exploration of the town. As usual we will offer 3 different walks on Saturday and Sunday – please let Barry know if you are willing to lead a walk. The total cost for 2 nights, dinner, B&B, packed lunches on Saturday and Sunday, coach travel and gratuities is still to be confirmed. To reserve your place, please send a non-refundable deposit of £75 per person to Barry with cheques payable to ***Cambridge Rambling Club***, or pay by bank transfer. The balance, when known, is to be paid by **1st February 2021.** Car parking details will be given later. Please include your address, email and telephone details with your deposit and any dietary requirements.

**\*Conwy, north Wales ‘budget’ trip:** **Friday April 30th to Monday May 3rd 2021 (3 nights).**All places booked by the Club in 3 self-catering cottages have been taken, but you are very welcome to book accommodation for yourself. Please let Jill know if you take this option. ‘A’ walks guaranteed – offers please from a ‘B’ walks’ leader!

**\*Ceredigion Coast Path ‘budget’ week, based Aberystwyth, (7 nights),** **Friday 11th to Friday 18th June 2021.** All places reserved for the Club in 4 self-catering properties have been taken, but you are welcome to join us if you book your own accommodation. Please let Jill know as we will be hiring transport to enable us to walk linear sections of this wonderful path running between Cardigan and Borth. For those booked with Jill, please note that the property prices have increased a little – and there will be a small single room supplement for people with sole occupancy of a double room. Jill will be in touch with everyone regarding the new prices.

**Summer Coach Trip to Southwold**. Yet another casualty of the 2020 restrictions! We plan to run this one Sunday in June 2021, date to be confirmed later.

 **\* ‘Budget’ trip to Masham north Yorkshire Dales, Friday 6th – 13th August 2021 (7 nights).** Advance notice that we will again organise a week’s walking in the north Yorkshire Dales in 2021. Please contact Jill for more information.

**Lakes’ week, Saturday 11th to 18th September 2021.**

The club will once again be visiting Keswick for our annual trip to the Lakes. Please let Susan Goodrich know if you are planning to join this trip. susangoodrich8@gmail.com or 07776 417499.

**Scarborough Coach & Hotel Trip, Friday 15th to Sunday 17th October 2021, (2 nights):** The Club has booked The Red Lea Hotel in Scarborough, North Yorkshire. See [www.theredlea.co.uk](http://www.theredlea.co.uk) The hotel is situated on the South Cliff with striking views over South Bay and has a heated indoor swimming pool. We plan to organise 2 walks on Friday afternoon and 3 on Saturday and Sunday; offers of leaders to Sally please. There are just 2 single rooms available at a cost of £245 and several twin/doubles at £215 per person. To reserve a place, please send a non-refundable deposit of £75 per person to Sally with cheques payable to **Cambridge Rambling Club**. (Final payment will be due by 31st July 2021). Please include your address, email and telephone details, and any dietary requirements. If you prefer to pay by bank transfer please ask for details.

**News and Notices**

**Update on Castle Mound footpath claim.** The Cambridge Group of the Ramblers has been pursuing a claim to have the footpath running between Castle Hill and the top of Castle Mound officially recognised as a public footpath (right of way). What seemed to be a straightforward exercise, requiring evidence of uninterrupted public access for at least 20 years, has become a lot more complicated!

The Ramblers’ claim cannot be decided by Cambridgeshire County Council as the Council has a vested interest in the outcome – it owns the site. Consequently, Suffolk County Council has agreed to hear the claim and has employed a rights of way expert for advice; her recommendation is that the claim be refused. It appears that because most of the route is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and is owned by a public body (Cambridgeshire County Council), public access is guaranteed. However, the Ramblers’ claim was initiated when the County Council announced that it wished to dispose of the Shire Hall site on a long lease. CRC and Ramblers member Paul argued that the expert’s advice is inconsistent – and the Committee agreed to defer making a decision until a number of queries are answered.

Further advice has been sought from Ramblers’ legal expert, now back from furlough. If Suffolk CC refuses the claim at its September meeting the Ramblers will still have the option of appealing to an independent inspector, arguing that the ’20 years of use’ evidence overrides the provisions of the Scheduled Ancient Monuments legislation.

**Club representation on the Cambridge Group of the Ramblers.** Please contact Jill if you can help.

**Support our ‘Walking Partnership’ (WP) funds.** Last yearwe received £310 from Ramblers Walking Holidays under the ‘Walking Partnership’ scheme, but this year the figure will be tiny! However, hopefully next year will see more people booking. We will use this fund to promote and support walking locally. Please nominate the CRC when you book on a Ramblers’ Holiday! We receive £30 for a long-haul trip, £20 for holidays in Europe and £10 for UK trips.

**Future budget trips**. We know that many Club members enjoy the varied programme of trips that the club organises, but Covid-19 and the consequences of having to cancel and postpone bookings has been a major headache for Club officers. So – a warning that in future we are likely to be making more use of budget hotels and we may also be staying in locations with a good choice of self-catering accommodation. This means that the risk of having to cancel or change bookings will be carried by individual members, rather than the Club’s finances.

**Bank transfer payment for Club coach hotel & day trips:** If you are paying for Club coach trips by bank transfer, please reference the destination to help our Treasurer Jim. Your name is provided automatically by your bank. Please contact Jim for the Club’s details.

**Club membership – annual subscriptions of £4 due 1st November 2020.** Please pay by standing order.

**Annual General Meeting, St James Church, Wulfstan Way, Cambridge, 2.30pm Saturday 21st November 2020.** We have booked St James Church again for our AGM, hoping that with appropriate ‘social distancing’ we can meet inside. After the formal Club business, Club member Steven will be giving us a talk about local butterflies. Many of us have used our extended walking opportunities this year to improve our knowledge of these fascinating creatures.

**Next Committee Meeting** on Tuesday 3rd November at 19.30. Venue or online ‘Zoom’ to be confirmed.