

**EAST KENT RAMBLING CLUB
NEWSLETTER
November 2018 to February 2019**

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Club Website	www.eastkentramblingclub.com	
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President's Report

The Public Inquiry concerning the Essex Rail Crossing closures will shortly be underway. There were a great number of objections, 193 under correspondence alone. This will be a test case in East Anglia and eventually the whole country.

I have studied some of the responses to Network Rails proposals, sent out with the latest RA Autumn newsletter. One of two most convincing submissions comes from the Ramblers Association as to what can happen if crossings are closed and walkers go along country lanes.

Some years ago, in Kettering, 28 walkers, were on an organised walk. They were walking tight to the verge on the right hand side of a country lane, facing the traffic in accordance with the Highway code, when over the brow of a hill a car appeared at an estimated speed of 65 to 70 miles an hour, ignoring the Highway code, "Never drive so fast you cannot stop within the distance you can see". While swerving to avoid an oncoming vehicle, it clipped the first walker, before ploughing into five people, two were dead by the time the ambulance arrived, and a further three died in hospital. Despite finding the driver at fault and that the ramblers were following the Highway Code, a police statement described organised walks on public roads as downright dangerous and were to be deplored, particularly on country roads. When a request was made for the police to change their statement, they refused to do so.

A CPRE Traffic Survey showed that two thirds of people feel threatened by motor traffic all or some of the time on rural roads.

While walkers have a right to walk on roads as do motorists to drive, motorists react with surprise, astonishment or anger at finding their progress incommoded by them. Whatever the legal position the pragmatic position for pedestrians is to avoid situations where they may conflict with vehicle users. Passed by vehicles at speed only inches away, in a narrow lane is unpleasant or alarming. Some may think the only safe way to travel is in a car.

We should write to our MPs, before it's too late, and ask them not to vote for crossing closures, before the orders go before the Secretary of State for approval, as the danger to walkers on country lanes is far greater nowadays. Any closure that forces walkers onto a country lane with no pavement is unsafe for us all.

Have you noticed an increase in paths where you have walked unhindered before, are now obstructed by horse paddocks some have even been lost to walkers and later closed. What was there first, the paths or the paddocks? This is not good news and needs to be monitored.

After much correspondence with DDC and Natural England, I feel I can't do any more work on the coastal path along Richborough Wharf. Natural England are to monitor the situation over the next five years, so it may never happen.

Gordon Sencicle

UPCOMING EVENTS-dates for the diary.

Autumn Lunch: Wednesday November 21st.

The walk starts at 10.30am, arriving back at The Rose and Crown, Stelling Minnis about 12.30pm for lunch at 1pm.

Price £10, including tea/coffee.

Please contact Lesley Attwood on 01304364794 to give your menu choices by November 1st.

Main course

Steak Pie with potatoes and vegetables
Roast Pork with potatoes and vegetables
Fish Cake with chips and salad
Vegetable Quiche with chips and salad

Desserts

Fruit Crumble
Toffee and Pecan Roulade
Lemon Meringue Pie
Chocolate Fudge Cake

Annual New Year Lunch: 2019

This popular event is being held on **Wednesday January 9th 2019** at the Abbots Barton Hotel, Canterbury.

Full details are enclosed (for email: please print off the menu choice form)

You need to decide on what you want from the menu, mark the form (keeping a copy for yourself) and send it to Brenda Cardwell.

Do not forget: include a cheque for £17 per person – made payable to East Kent Rambling Club.

AGM 2019

The Club's AGM will be held on **Wednesday 27th March 2019** at **2.15pm in Blean Village Hall.**

As usual, there will be a Bring and Share Lunch at 1pm.

It is a great social event and gives everyone a chance to meet up and chat with fellow members.

The Hall is easily accessible by car and bus.

CLUB HOLIDAY

Weston-super-Mare, May 2019.

By now you should all have received the first mail out, either by post or email. If you haven't received anything, please let me know.

Have a good Autumn. Maggie and Reg.

60th Birthday Celebrations:

A huge thank you to all who were involved with the organisation of this very successful event. To those who led the walks during the last week of June, and to those who were responsible for the lunch held on Sunday July 1st, attended by 79 people.



Other items.

Accidents whilst out walking.

In the light of recent events, all those walking are encouraged to carry their own basic First Aid Kit. There is a free App produced by the Red Cross giving basic first aid advice, which members may wish to download.

Below is the iphone link. There is another version for Android users.

https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwi59svtyeXdAhXID8AKHSRtCZEqFjAAegQICRAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fitunes.apple.com%2Fgb%2Fapp%2Ffirst-aid-by-british-red-cross%2Fid483408666%3Fmt%3D8&usg=AOvVaw3q_7TcRKBpqPD_WWrjWaFj

There is also an App called OS Locate, which will give grid references- useful for the Emergency Services?

Broken stiles and blocked paths.

All members are encouraged to report problems that they encounter on paths directly to KCC. There is a link for this purpose on our Club Website.

ROGER KING'S RIGHTS OF WAY REPORT. For more information phone Roger on 01304 362730, or via email: roger.rambler89@outlook.com

KCC General News

As mentioned in May, the *fault reporting website* does now seem to have stabilised, and works consistently 99% of the time. The promised User's Guide also appeared almost immediately after the last Committee, and I have copies for anyone who feels they need one. Yet again KCC stress the benefits for everyone in making reports online.

Full details of the *2018 Cropping Campaign* are not yet in, but very prompt direct action by KCC in cutting offending crops (and billing the landowner) was taken in two areas: footpath ER53, on the road from Pineham to Guston; and in Shepherdsweil, where footpaths ER80/81/83, all crossing the same huge field, were cut to an exemplary standard.

The Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2018-2028 has been out for public consultation this summer. Like many such things, it may be a little short on detail, but there's certainly nothing in there that I would take issue with.

Stirrings at last on the *Countryside Access Wardens* front. Although the suggestion of a "get together" of Wardens in Maidstone was soon scrapped, all CAWs have now been sent a questionnaire to enable them to express their views on a number of issues.

Vegetation Clearance and Volunteer Activity

As widely publicised, KCC's appointing of new contractors this year proved to be a disaster, with new people just not up to the job. With cutting way behind schedule, and some paths missed altogether, things are only now just about back on track. Walkers in east Kent owe a great deal to the Ramblers White Cliffs (and Canterbury) Group volunteers, for organising and carrying out a considerable number of clearances, (with valuable help from the installers of gates etc.) often at short notice. More than five *miles* of path have been cleared since early Spring!

England Coast Path

Richborough Quays. The promised July decision produced bad news, as feared. Natural England are not going to open up the route alongside the River Stour, on account of the current and intended vehicle parking, so people will have to continue to follow the path alongside the A256 dual carriageway. Next review of the situation – 2024!

Ramsgate to Whitstable. This opening of this section is still held up because the area by the North Foreland Golf Course at Kingsgate is considered "unsafe" and protective fencing has to be erected. A 2019 opening, surely?

Whitstable to Iwade. Still awaiting a final decision on the route from the Planning Inspector.

Miscellaneous:

The North Downs Way's 40th birthday will be celebrated at Wye this week, 24-30 September, culminating in a parade to Wye Crown on Sunday 30th.

The proposed colossal Cleeve Hill Solar Park (Faversham/Graveney) is being opposed in its present form by the Ramblers (and many others), led by Coastal Path expert Ian Wild, as it would seriously affect that route. A formal planning application has not yet been made, but that could happen in October.

Path change updates (too numerous to mention all, so just the confirmed and "more interesting" shown below:

(1) Proposals :

Singledge Lane, Whitfield – a strange one. The horse riding fraternity are claiming a bridleway around the perimeter of the large field bounded by Singledge Lane and the A2 to the south – currently being covered by new housing.

Whitstable CW80 – the railway crossing at Glebe Way. A panel of KCC elected members will convene locally on 26 September to view the crossing and consider its fate. Probable outcome: closure, with no new footbridge built.

Coldblow Woods, Ripple parish – new footpaths are being claimed *inside* the woods, parallel to existing FPs EE443, 442 and 438. Clearly these paths have been well used, but the owners of the woodland are apparently not in favour.

(2) Orders confirmed:

Preston EE486 – creation of a new footpath along the existing track through Deerson Farm, from the 90 degree bend in Deerson Lane through to the long footpath which links Preston church to Seaton and Wickhambreaux.

Canterbury CC18 - extinguishment and creation of the footpath at Barton Mills, on the River Stour off Sturry Road. This will take the path off the former footbridge over the river and onto a new one nearby.

(3) Ongoing : -

Shepherdswell ER80/81 –the still-running saga concerning the proposal to divert these paths out of the large field to the SW of the Village Hall, near the village centre, and to reroute them along the field edges by the Hall and adjoining Coxhill Road (behind a hedge). With all parties having completed their written submissions, the Inspector will make an unaccompanied site visit in early October. A final decision is expected in November/December.

Below – more paths under consideration!!

- Ramsgate TR26: minor diversion around new housing at Haine Road
- Sellindge HE301: new route through new housing development off A20 near village centre
- Brabourne AE256: diversion out of garden of house on Weekes Lane
- Brabourne AE249: diversion from blocked route onto one used for years (and better, in my opinion) just west of Coombe Farm
- Alkham ER255: minor diversion around new development at Ewell Minnis (order messed up by Dover DC)
- Folkestone HF42: small diversion to move path away from approved development just west of Risborough Barracks, north of Horn Street
- Dunkirk ZR533: extinguishment of path largely duplicating nearby ZR535, emerging onto the Canterbury Road at the foot of Dunkirk hill.
- Aylesham EE461: small diversion in Old Park area to accommodate authorised housing development (again errors in order drawn up by Dover DC)
- Canterbury CC26/27: rerouteing of these paths onto a new green area once house building on the old Howe Barracks site is completed
- Selling ZR408: diversion of FP onto a route further north, away from Shepherds Hill Farm, south of Hogben's Hill in the west of the parish

East Kent Rambling Club

Tel: 01795 539812

Brenda Cardwell
23 Cambridge Road
Faversham
Kent
ME13 8RW

October 2018

Dear Member

**New Year Annual Lunch, Wednesday 9 January 2019
Best Western-Abbots Barton Hotel,
36 New Dover Road, Canterbury CT1 3DU**

The price is £17 per person and, as you'll see overleaf, there's a good choice of dishes with tea or coffee to follow the meal. This price includes a tip for the waiting staff.

We hope to see you at the lunch.

Best wishes

Brenda Cardwell

See overleaf (*page below if received by e-mail*)

Make your menu choices

Cut off the reply form

***Return to Brenda Cardwell by 1 December at the latest
Cheques payable to: East Kent Rambling Club***

East Kent Rambling Club

New Year Lunch 2019

Wednesday 9 January 2019

12.30 for 1.00pm

£17 each

Best Western-Abbots Barton Hotel
36 New Dover Road Canterbury CT1 3DU

Complete the form below and send to:
Brenda Cardwell, 23 Cambridge Road, Faversham,
Kent. ME13 8RW Tel: 01795 539812

Cheques payable to East Kent Rambling Club

Starter

Carrot & Cumin Soup
Garlic Croutons

Ham Hock Terrine
Tomato Chutney, Crostini

Grilled Pepper & Courgette Terrine
Set Tomato & Basil Consomme

Main Course

Pan Fried Chicken Breast
New Potatoes, Buttered Roast Carrots, Broccoli

Slow Cooked Brisket of Sussex Beef
New Potatoes, Buttered Roast Carrots, Broccoli

Pan Fried Cod
New Potatoes, Buttered Roast Carrots, Broccoli

Beetroot & Kentish Blue Cheese Risotto
Watercress, Apricot Gel, Balsamic Dressing

Dessert

Baked Vanilla Cheesecake
Passion fruit Jam, Vanilla Ice Cream

Milk Chocolate Mousse
Banana Ice Cream

Seasonal Fruit Salad

Tea or Coffee to follow

Name:

Starter	Main Course	Dessert
Carrot & Cumin Soup <input type="checkbox"/>	Pan Fried Chicken <input type="checkbox"/>	Baked Cheesecake <input type="checkbox"/>
Ham Hock Terrine <input type="checkbox"/>	Slow Cooked Brisket of Sussex Beef <input type="checkbox"/>	Milk Chocolate Mousse <input type="checkbox"/>
Grilled Pepper & Courgette Terrine <input type="checkbox"/>	Pan Fried Cod <input type="checkbox"/>	Seasonal Fruit Salad <input type="checkbox"/>
	Beetroot & Blue Cheese Risotto <input type="checkbox"/>	

Name:

Starter	Main Course	Dessert
Carrot & Cumin Soup <input type="checkbox"/>	Pan Fried Chicken <input type="checkbox"/>	Baked Cheesecake <input type="checkbox"/>
Ham Hock Terrine <input type="checkbox"/>	Slow Cook Brisket of Sussex Beef <input type="checkbox"/>	Milk Chocolate Mousse <input type="checkbox"/>
Grilled Pepper & Courgette Terrine <input type="checkbox"/>	Pan Fried Cod <input type="checkbox"/>	Seasonal Fruit Salad <input type="checkbox"/>
	Beetroot & Blue Cheese Risotto <input type="checkbox"/>	

Choose your menu, and send with your cheque to Brenda Cardwell (address as above) asap, but no later than 1 December 2018 Make cheques payable to East Kent Rambling Club (not to B. Cardwell)