

EAST KENT RAMBLING CLUB NEWSLETTER
July 2024 to November 2024

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Committee Member	Betty Sherry	07776832924
Committee Member	Tina Webb	07895408915

Club Website www.eastkentramblingclub.com **Club Email** ekramblers@gmail.com

WELCOME

This is the first Newsletter with a brand new Chairman, Malcolm Attwood, Malcolm is not new to the committee, he has been a stalwart member of the club, leading walks, organising holidays and an experienced committee member, so a welcome to Malcolm in this new role. Along with Malcolm we have 4 new committee members, Alison Blackman taking in the role of Rambles Secretary, not a task to be underestimated and as the walks programme shows doing a good job. Then we have 3 fairly new members to the club who are also keen to help and give something back by joining the committee, they are, Peter Fletcher, Betty Sherry and Tina Webb. With the first committee meeting held after the AGM they have proved, vocally that they will be good committee members too. A warm welcome to them all and may they continue with the eagerness so far shown enabling the club to continue to grow.

WALK LEADERS

Another big thank you to all the walk leaders, new and old, your role is vital in the club's continuance without you there would be no club. Anyone who fancies giving it a go, you will get lots of help if you need it (sometimes even if you don't need it!) Both leisurely and long will be always welcome.

SUBMITTING WALKS

A reminder of our new Rambles Secretary details for submitting walks:

Alison Blackman – Phone 07759955808 Email- aliblackman@hotmail.co.uk

EVENTS

Please read these items thoroughly and make a note of any dates you wish to join in with, as sadly it was said by some members that they did not see an item in a past Newsletter.

1. **Barbara Seed** is having a garden party on Sunday 21st July at 14.00 pm with light refreshments. Her address is 73 The Street, Sholden, CT140AJ
2. **Skittles** - John Pitcher has again arranged a Skittles afternoon at The Chance Inn, Guston on Thursday 8th August ready to start play at 14.30 pm. Grid Ref: 323445, Post Code CT15 5EW
3. **Quiz** - Malcolm Attwood is planning to hold a quiz on Wednesday 4th September to be held at Littlebourne Village Hall, there will be a short walk beforehand. Cost is £5-bring your own food-GR 208 574 PC CT3 1ST. More information from Malcolm contact details as above.
4. **Winter Break** -Tina Webb has planned a self-booking, self-catering casual winter break, at Parkdean Caravan & Lodge Park, St Margarets Bay at Cliffe, Dover, CT15 6AG. A small quiet park, with indoor swimming pool, bar, no evening entertainment. Caravans or Lodges are available. This will take place on Monday 4th November arrive 16.00 p.m. perhaps meet in the bar for a drink at 18.00 p.m. to Friday 8th November 10 a.m. checkout. Caravans start price for 4 nights including all gas, electric, bed linen (beds made up) bring your own towels, with prices starting from £125 per caravan for 4 nights, NOT PER PERSON, you do not have to share. There will be an itinerary of walks for 3 days led by members with Tina leading Thursday's walk from Sandown to Sandwich for lunch/coffee with a final stop at The Norman Wisdom, Weatherspoons in Deal for the end of the week drink/meal. Members may join for all or daily walks which will be announced for further information contact:- Tina- email- webby58@hotmail.co.uk or phone 07895408915.
5. **Subscriptions** - This is a gentle reminder to those who are not sure if they have paid their membership, please contact Sue Slater if you are unsure you can pay by bank transfer or send a cheque. Contact details for Sue are above.
6. **Autumn Lunch** -Lesley Attwood has organised an Autumn lunch on 23rd October, at The Five Bells, Eastry this will be proceeded with a short walk starting at 10 am with lunch 12.30 for 13.00. To book contact Lesley with your choice of 2 courses as shown below, this will be a first come basis as there is a limit of 35.

Mains

Ham & Leek Pie, Potatoes and Vegetables
 Chicken Curry & Rice
 Cod Goujons, Chips & Peas
 Mediterranean Vegetable Pasta with Salad
 Tea or Coffee included

Deserts

Apple Crumble with Custard, Cream or Ice cream
 Chocolate Sponge with Custard, Cream or Ice cream
 Profiteroles with Chocolate Sauce
 Lemon Tart with Cream or Ice Cream

£18 – cash is preferable paid at the bar this will be very much appreciated.

Booking – Lesley Attwood 01304 364794

A plea to any budding Travel agents, a skill you did not know you had, is there a club member who would like to try their hand at organising a club holiday for next year? A volunteer would be helpful to organise this event, someone will always help you. If so contact a committee member who you can talk it through with. As all good job adverts say, no experience necessary.

ROGER KING'S RIGHTS OF WAY REPORT

For more information please phone Roger on 01304 362730 or e-mail roger.rambler89@outlook.com

KCC General News

Not much new to report from KCC PROW at Brabourne. The summer path cuts are under way – although the White Cliffs “Slashers” have had to help out. And they will have another Cropping Campaign this summer, although it may be too late to target one of this year’s worst offenders - the fields to the north of Mongeham church are seriously blocked by rape, meaning that walks to or from there from Northbourne or Sholden are likely to be impossible until after the harvest. But please do continue to report any problems online at <https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccesscams/standardmap.aspx> as the worst problems, like the appalling barbed wire blockage on EE195 Woodnesborough at the EE196 junction at GR 298 574 (off Coombe Lane), are being addressed.

Local Development Proposals

These seem to be everywhere right now, and many do affect footpaths. Like the one at Mongeham, behind the Three Horseshoes pub. At St Margaret’s, near New Townsend Farm. Behind Langdon Primary School. And off Staple Road, Wingham, just east of the village. The only good news is that most paths remain on their current alignment through relatively green areas, but of course any “rural feel” has gone forever. On the other hand, proposed solar farms at Postling, Aldington (the smaller one) and Old Wives Lees (affecting the North Downs Way) have been rejected in recent months

Path change news. Lots happening, so concentrating on what has actually been finalised:

a. Orders confirmed:

- **Ringwould, Ripple, Langdon parishes – extensions of bridleway ER16.** Where these three parishes meet at Ringwould Road, south-west of Ringwould village at GR 352 479, it had been discovered that the bridleway does not actually extend as far as the road! This order creates that short extension, together with an equally short new branch (EE498) emerging directly opposite footpath EE451 (Hangman’s Lane).

– **Faversham ZF5.** Diversion of the footpath at Ham Farm (GR 184 628). Half way between Faversham Creek and Hollowshore, this order takes the path out of the farm buildings, across a field and alongside a minor road - effectively around the other two sides of a square.

– **Selling ZR645.** Diversion of the footpath which leaves Featherbed Lane at GR 034 575 to facilitate a new vineyard. The new route parallels the lane north-eastwards, then turns west alongside bridleway ZR643, so around 125 yards further to walk. In the NW of Selling parish, north of Hogbens Hill.

– **Selling ZR646.** Small diversion of the path to the field edge to facilitate another new vineyard, emerging onto Owens Court Road near Saffrery Farm at GR 026 576, some 80 yards closer to the next PROW going west than at present. In far west of Selling parish, NW of Hogbens Hill.

- Wingham & Goodnestone parishes – Inspector rules new routes should be bridleways

The original claim would have seen the creation of:

- **EE496** – a byway open to all (including motorised) traffic, from the Staple to Wingham road at GR 262 568 south to Little Twitham Farm, *and*

- **EE497** – a restricted byway from Little Twitham Farm south to the ends of newly-upgraded restricted byway EE269A and bridleway EE28, at GR 263 559.

However, an Inspector has decided that from the historical evidence available, that these two routes should become rights of way but at *bridleway* status.

- **CB362 Lower Hardres.** Diversion of the footpath out of the middle of Great and Little Catt's Farms where problems had been encountered, (in the area of GR 144 514), to an unobstructed route close to the western edge of the properties. Situated east of Stone Street in the south of the parish.

b. Two new proposals:

- Order made upgrading to restricted byway status Nonington footpaths EE307A/EE307B/EE264

These run from Sandwich Lane, at the southern boundary of Fredville Park (GR 264 509) north-eastwards for around 1.8 miles through to the Thornton Lane track, byway EE335, at GR 288 522 (just into Eastry parish). Much of the first two paths at the south-west end is currently very narrow and enclosed, so a lot of work would be needed. But these issues are decided on historical evidence, not desirability or suitability

- Consultation on a new definitive footpath claim connecting two Kingsdown bridleways. For years we have used a short (50 yards) path connecting bridleways ER23 and ER24 at Kingsdown. The south end (the ER24 junction) leads off the southern end of the metalled Victoria Road at GR 373 477, and the route is normally used by people then walking north-westwards through Kingsdown Wood and onward towards Ringwould. I can never remember any problems with using this path, so hopefully it's an open and shut case.

EASTBOURNE HOLIDAY 2nd June – 7th June 2024

Once again club member Heather Gilbert has composed a brief write up of the recent holiday enjoyed by 43 members at The Hydro Hotel in Eastbourne.

Walking club holiday 2024 – Eastbourne (mark 2)

Another lovely holiday in Eastbourne and a massive thanks to Tracey for all her hard work organising, and her meticulous attention to detail, no doubt ably assisted by our Chairman, Malcolm. Tracey had arranged for mini buses to transport us to some of the walk starts, otherwise we used our bus passes or a train.

Thanks also to the walk leaders for arranging and leading.

Despite this appalling summer, we once again struck lucky (the Club seems to manage this every time) and enjoyed glorious and perfect walking weather and not a drop of rain. The hotel was excellent as before and the countryside stunning.

On Monday the short walk was 6.5 miles starting at Beachy Head via Birling Gap for lunch. Some of us took the open top bus back from there – certainly very windy riding on the top deck - whilst others undertook the last 2 mile hilly walk. The other walk was 9.5 miles from the Seven Sisters Country Park to Jevington circular back to Eastbourne, I believe this was quite challenging.

On Tuesday there was a choice of two short walks - Jevington to Eastbourne or a circular one starting at Pevensey Castle and over the Pevensey Levels and along part of the 1066 route. So much history around here with the landing of the Romans and events of the Norman Conquest. The long walkers tackled Alfriston to Eastbourne via Friston Forest and Cuckmere Haven. 10.5 miles turned into more than 12 but everyone made it back in time for dinner.

On Wednesday the short walkers took the bus to Friston Pond to repeat a lovely walk we did last year over the Downs to Birling Gap and then onto East Dean where people enjoyed the village market and the Tiger Inn. We saw Spitfires flying overhead. We almost filled the bus and as there was another group too, the bus struggled to get up the hill. We were joined by Doreen, ex-club member, who lives in Eastbourne now. The long walkers went to the Seven Sisters Country Park for a circular walk via West Dean and a visit to the Rathfinny Vineyard for an expensive glass of wine and then along the Cuckmere Valley.

Thursday did not go according to plan as norovirus hit nearly half the group during the night including the two walk leaders. This necessitated Tracey having to rearrange things but people stepped up and two walks went ahead for those fit enough.

During the evenings we were entertained by Malcolm's quiz and Libby's feely bags. Some of us learned how to play croquet, which was great fun.

One evening we had a talk by Kim Adams, local historian, who gave us the history of how Eastbourne changed from a village and farms to a seaside resort. The 7th Duke of Devonshire played a large part in this using land he owned and being very specific about how the buildings were sited – no cafes or amusements on the sea front, only people with money allowed to build in order to keep the riff raff out, all buildings to be of brick as well as the walls and pavements. Kim also led two evening walks round the Meads area showing us interesting sites and buildings. Evidently Eastbourne was the most bombed town in the SE during WW2 as it was on the direct flight path to London from Normandy and also used as a training ground by the Luftwaffe.

All in all a very enjoyable few days in lovely surroundings, good company and great weather.