



Founded 1934

(Affiliated to The Ramblers Association)

Newsletter January 2018

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

I would like to thank you all for your continuing support for the Club.

Last year was busy with several social events and as always, a very varied walking programme of over 260 walks – perhaps 20 thousand miles walked by the members!

2017 brought new members, new walk leaders, new walk routes and venues – variety is the spice of life!

Social events planned include Ten Pin Bowling, the Quiz Evening, an outing to Bressingham and a long weekend at Potters Resort.

Enclosed is the forthcoming programme. Many thanks to all those who helped to produce it. Also, thanks to all our walk leaders and co-ordinators without whose help the programme of walks would not run so smoothly throughout the year.

Let's look forward to a good summer and plenty of rambling. **Maggie Say**

Annual General Meeting 2017

70 members attended our Annual General Meeting which was held at the Church of our Saviour in Chelmer Village on 2 December.

Following the apologies for absence, the acceptance of the minutes of the last AGM your Chairman's report and the reports of the Club Officers, the under mentioned were elected to your committee.

Chairman
General Secretary
Treasurer
Social Secretary
Hostess
Programme Co-ordinator
Footpath Officer

Margaret Say
Steve Freight
Keith Turbutt
Brian Stoneham
Pam Turrell
Elaine Law
Simon Collins

Committee Members

Terry Costigan
Patrick O'Connor
Brian Wickham

The Chairman, Margaret Say, paid thanks to the Committee for all their support and hard work on behalf of the Club, during this, her first year of tenure. Special thanks were also paid to the hard working Coordinators.

General Secretary, Steve Freight, reported on Membership numbers saying that the Club was maintaining its membership levels. He also reported on the Club's updated website which now contains a lot of useful information, including the history of the Club as well as all the current forms and notes.

Treasurer, Keith Turbutt, presented the accounts and gave a summary explanation on various aspects. The accounts, which had been audited by Dave Skinner, in the absence of Mike Hiom through illness, were declared to be a true and proper record - which was supported by a proposer and seconder.

This was followed by reports from Brian Stoneham our Social Secretary, Pam Turrell our Hostess, Simon Collins our Footpaths Officer and Elaine Law our Programme Co-ordinator.

Two amendments to the Club's Constitution were voted on and unanimously agreed

- 1 Update Guide Dogs to Assistance Dogs
- 2 Add a paragraph regarding Data Protection and limiting any loss of data issues

Brian Wickham proposed a round of thanks to all the walk leaders, without whom the club would not be able to function.

A field guide to survival whilst walking

The NFU, Ramblers Association and other organisations offer the following advice:

- Be particularly aware of, bulls, rams and cows with calves
- Never pet calves.
- Ensure cows see you as you approach so you do not surprise them. Cows don't have a straight-ahead line of sight because of the positioning of their eyes.
- Don't panic or run. Most cattle will stop before they reach you. If they follow, walk on quietly.
- Take the best route – keep to paths where possible but give livestock plenty of space.

Change to walk programme

The walk scheduled for Sunday 8th April 2018 will now take place on Sunday 6th May 2018. All other details remain the same.

News and Updates page added to the website

A new page has been added to the website, where news and updates will be featured.

Among those added is an update regarding the constitution changes agreed at the AGM and, for those interested in the history of the club, a BBC Essex Interview featuring Vic Hegarty & Bill Shipman in conversation with Steve Scruton discussing the origins of the club and the 60th Anniversary walk. This was originally broadcast on 26th April 1994.

Walkers and Leaders requirements

Following a recent incident we have reviewed our Walkers and Leaders notes and have made some adjustments to our recommendations and requirements.

To ensure that all members are aware of this we enclose a copy of each, which we would ask that all members read.

The main changes are:

- *No member taken ill or injured is to be left on their own under any circumstances (even if they say they are OK to be left).*
- *No walk is to be undertaken with less than 4 members (if you do walk with less than 4 then you are walking as friends and not in the Club's name and you will not be covered by the Club's Public Liability Insurance).*

Facebook and Website Updates

It is pleasing to see that our ever expanding community of members on Facebook (come and join us) are utilising it to give feedback on our walks. It is very interesting to hear you are enjoying the various walks and posting photos too.

We are also pleased to see that it is being used to update walk information where needed. Please remember to also let Steve Freight know so the website can be updated if needed.

With this in mind...

Urgent Communications & new E-Mail Distribution list

...we have been looking at ways we can communicate to our members in the event of urgent notifications regarding changes and updates to walks.

To this end, we recently conducted a poll of our Facebook users (12% of our membership) to find out how often they visited the Facebook page and Website. It was good to see that many people visit both regularly, with Facebook being the main contact point on the internet.

Recognising though, that not all our members are on Facebook, we are able to, and have updated the Website Updates page with such notices.

However both these forms of communication require you, our members, to visit these pages to see these updates.

With this in mind, Steve is setting up an E-mail distribution list so that short notice communications can be sent in the event of walks being cancelled or altered. If you would like to be included within this, can you please send an e-mail to chelmsfordramblingclub@outlook.com asking to be added. We do not envisage this form of communication being used often as normally there is plenty of time to inform members of changes in the weeks leading up to the walk.

We also appreciate that this only covers our members who have access to the internet. If you receive such a communication, please telephone other members who you know may not have access to the internet.

Town twinning

I am sure that most of you know that Chelmsford has two twin towns, Backnang in Germany and Annonay in France. Both towns have active walking groups which it would be possible for us to link up with, and both towns are surrounded by inviting countryside.

Any link does not have to start on a large scale, it could simply be a small group visiting for a weekend and walking with the local group. Accommodation could either be in a hotel or with local hosts. Language is not usually an issue as English is widely spoken and people are usually keen to practice, (but it's also a good opportunity to practice your French or German!). We would then invite the groups back to Chelmsford to walk with us, (when anyone staying with a host would be expected to reciprocate).

Twinning visits offer a unique opportunity to meet and get to know people from our twin towns with similar interests and get a genuine insight into the similarities and differences in our ways of life.

If you are interested or would just like to find out more, please contact me on 07984 794022, at magscampbell@hotmail.com or catch me on a Wednesday morning (SP) or Saturday afternoon. I'd love to be able to get something going!

Margaret Campbell
Chelmsford Town Twinning Association

Social Events Review

Since our last newsletter several more social events have taken place:

TEN PIN BOWLING:

Another “Nifty Fifties” afternoon was arranged for Tuesday 17th October 2017. Five lanes were booked from 2.00p.m. to 5.00p.m., but numbers were slightly down on previous meetings. As a result only four lanes were used. The Ladies' competition was won by Sandy Smith and the Mens' competition was won by Steve Freight (once again).

LANDGUARD FORT & RIVER DEBEN CRUISE :

We had 47 people on the coach for the trip to Landguard Fort & the River Deben Cruise in Suffolk on Thursday 21st September 2017. The weather was kind to us, but the timing went slightly awry at the middle of the day. Unfortunately the guides leading our three groups around the Fort took longer than we had been led to expect, which meant that there was not enough time for all Members to have a look around outside the Fort and get themselves some food or drink before leaving for the afternoon boat trip.

BRICK LANE MUSIC HALL

Our Winter Concert was a trip to Brick Lane Music Hall (East London) for the Wartime Music Hall Show (Matinee with full afternoon tea included). The Club purchased 46 tickets for the afternoon performance on Tuesday 7th November 2017.

Although we had previously received more than 40 expressions of interest, the actual number of Members who were able to apply for the trip was only 30. We therefore opened the trip up to friends and family and were eventually able to fill all 46 seats.

The reaction from those who attended the outing was extremely favourable, with several people asking if we could do a similar trip next year. We shall consult with Members during the course of the year and let you know in a later newsletter our proposals for a Winter / Christmas outing later in 2018.

CHRISTMAS WALK

On Wednesday 20th December, the M.S.P. and M.E.P. walking groups set off on their separate routes from the Church Of Our Saviour, Chelmer Village. Upon their return the walkers (and some other Members) enjoyed their packed lunches together with mince pies, hot drinks and, for those so inclined, a glass or two of wine.

Forthcoming Events For Diary

TEN PIN BOWLING

Two more “Nifty Fifties” Ten Pin Bowling events have been arranged for the first half of 2018. Once again these will be at Namco Funscape, Braintree Freeport. The first meeting has been arranged for **2.00 p.m. on Thursday, 22nd February 2018**, at a cost of £5 per head including a cup of tea or coffee. The second meeting will be at the same time on **Thursday 7th June 2018**.

When you are able to, please let Brian Stoneham know if you would like to attend either event.

Tel. No.: 01245 257988

E-mail: brimaur21@blueyonder.co.uk

QUIZ EVENING

The Club will be holding it's annual Quiz Evening with Fish and Chip Supper on **Saturday, 21st April 2018**. This year the event will be held at the Church of Our Saviour, Chelmer Village, Chelmsford, with quizzers requested to arrive by 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start.

Anyone interested in attending and being part of a team, should contact Mike Hiom, Tel 01245 265159

TRIP TO BRESSINGHAM STEAM MUSEUM & GARDENS

On Thursday May 24th, the Club has arranged a coach trip to Bressingham Steam Museum & Gardens, near Diss in Norfolk. This centre contains 16 acres of beautiful gardens and a nursery. The gardens and adjacent woodland can be explored on foot or by way of four different narrow gauge railway routes on steam or diesel pulled trains on over four miles of track.

There is an exhibition of steam engines, carriages and tractors, a recreation of Walmington-on-Sea (the Dad's Army set), picnic tables, a cafe / restaurant on site, together with a large garden centre (Wyevale) next door.

The ticket price of £24 p.p. includes travel by coach, entrance to the Bressingham Gardens, the Bressingham Steam Experience, the Dad's Army Collection, and unlimited narrow gauge railway rides.

Departure will be from Asda Store Car Park, Chelmer Village, Springfield. The coach will leave at 9.15 a.m.

An application form is attached to this newsletter.

Obituary

Jessie Thom 1916 - 2017

Jessie was born in Edmonton in 1916 in the middle of the first world war. From an early age she was a very keen outdoors person and belonged to the YHA. She continued outdoor activities all her life with a great interest in gardening and walking.

The first job Jessie had was working in the offices of Etams. A ladies fashion store, before becoming a State Enrolled Nurse and then a Matron of St John's Hospital and Essex Home School. In retirement she was Housekeeper to the various Abbeyfields Homes.

Travelling was another of Jessie's pleasures as well as a keen interest in art and culture.

In the early days Jessie was a member of CND and marched regularly with Bertrand Russell. She was also very involved with charity work, being a Samaritan in Chelmsford and one of the founder members of the Chelmsford & District Society for Mentally Handicapped Children.

QUIZ EVENING

SATURDAY 21st April 2018

WHY NOT JOIN US!

MAKE UP A TABLE OF SIX

VENUE : *Church of our Saviour, Chelmer Village*

TIME: 7.30 p.m. SHARP

TICKETS: £9 PER PERSON OR £54 (FOR A TABLE)

FISH & CHIPS OR CHICKEN & CHIPS WILL BE SERVED DURING THE INTERVAL.

PRIZES FOR THE TABLE WITH THE HIGHEST SCORE.

PRIZES FOR THOSE WITH THE LOWEST !

COME ALONG AND JOIN IN THE FUN !!!

✂-----cut off

CHELMSFORD RAMBLING CLUB, QUIZ EVENING.

PLEASE RESERVE PLACES FOR THE QUIZ ON SATURDAY 21st APRIL 2018

A REMITTANCE OF £..... IS ENCLOSED FOR THE UNDERMENTIONED PEOPLE.

PLEASE SEND A CHEQUE MADE OUT TO CHELMSFORD RAMBLING CLUB AND A STAMPED SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE TO

Mr Mike Hiom, 36 Longstomps Avenue, Chelmsford, CM2 9LA. Tel 01245 265159

(cancellations within seven days will only be refunded at the discretion of the committee)

PLEASE WRITE IN BLOCK CAPITALS YOUR CHRISTIAN NAME, SURNAME AND MARK YOUR CHOICE OF FOOD

1. NAME	TEL NO	FISH & CHIPS OR CHICKEN & CHIPS
2. NAME	TEL NO	FISH & CHIPS OR CHICKEN & CHIPS
3. NAME	TEL NO	FISH & CHIPS OR CHICKEN & CHIPS
4. NAME	TEL NO	FISH & CHIPS OR CHICKEN & CHIPS
5. NAME	TEL NO	FISH & CHIPS OR CHICKEN & CHIPS
6. NAME	TEL NO	FISH & CHIPS OR CHICKEN & CHIPS

CHELMSFORD RAMBLING CLUB

***COACH TRIP TO BRESSINGHAM GARDENS AND STEAM MUSEUM
(DISS, NORFOLK)***

THURSDAY, 24TH MAY 2018

Coach Leaving: *Asda Car Park, Springfield* at **9.30 am**
Coach Leaving: *Bressingham* at **4.00 pm (approx)**

Please Reserve _____ **place(s)** at **£25.00 each. ***

A remittance for £ _____ **is included.**

***The price includes:** *Admission to the Gardens, Steam Museum, Narrow Gauge Train Rides, Coach Journey To and From Bressingham, Car Parking Contribution and Driver's Tip*

Cheques: *To be made in favour of "The Chelmsford Rambling Club."*

Please send your "Form", "Remittance" and "Stamped Self-addressed Envelope" to:

*Brian Stoneham
21 Walters Close, Galleywood, Chelmsford, CM2 8NU. Tel No: 01245 257988*

Full Name: ** _____ **Tel. No.**

Full Name: ** _____ **Tel. No.**

Signature: _____ **Date:**

**** Capitals Please**

Cancellations within 14 days of the trip will only be refunded at the discretion of the Committee.

It may be possible that spare places will become available on this trip as we near the date of the outing, so please indicate here if you would like friends or family to be considered