

RUGBY RAMBLERS

(RUGBY GROUP of THE RAMBLERS)

MAY 2017 (Iss 2)

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Dear Rugby Group Member(s),

RUGBY RAMBLERS NEEDS:



YES - YOU - TO BE OUR NEXT CHAIRPERSON OR WEEKENDS ORGANISER

**Please would each one of you think carefully if you could
take on all, or part of one of these rôles for our Group.**

As previously announced, at this November's AGM I will be resigning as Chairman and Newsletter Editor after 25 years in these posts. Also Stephen and Sheila Crosby have already advised that this September's Tenby Weekend, (their 8th) will be their last as organisers. So, we urgently need volunteers to take on these rôles.

CHAIRPERSON

It is of course “Chairperson” now – I’m sure that there are plenty of ladies out there who would be really good in this rôle. (I prefer “Chairperson” to “Chair”, as inviting someone to become a piece of furniture seems odd and unwelcoming!)

By this November’s AGM I will have “clocked up” 25 years as Chairperson, and I am conscious of becoming a bit past my “sell by date” – i.e. “stale”, and also of not being able always to devote adequate time to the job because of other commitments. So it’s definitely time we had some “new blood” – someone with a fresh outlook. The role of Chairman is, on the face of it, not very onerous. Chair four Committee Meetings and the AGM each year, put in an appearance at Social Events, produce a Chairman’s report once a year, try and make sure that people are thanked for their efforts on behalf of the Group etc etc.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

For many years I have also been producing Newsletters, currently about 3 times/year, two timed to coincide with the new Programme distribution, plus one following the AGM. It is not normal for Group Chairpersons to also be Newsletter Editor, so it would conform with normal practice for there to be a separate Newsletter Editor.

The Newsletter Editor would be a Committee post, attending Committee meetings, in order to keep abreast of what’s going on in the Group. It would also be great (but certainly not essential) if the new “Newsletter” person had access to publishing software, so that our Newsletters could be in a more interesting format.

OTHER TASKS currently undertaken by the Chairperson

These include getting the Newsletters and Programmes printed, which is a simple job that could be handled by someone not on the Committee. My other position is as one of our two representatives on Warwickshire Area Council, reporting between Area and our Group. At present, I am willing to continue with this, although it would be great if the new Chairperson wanted also to take this on. Area Council meets 4 times each year in Warwick, at 2.pm (until 4.30pm) on the first Saturdays of March, June, September and December, plus the Area AGM, which is normally on the first Saturday in February.

I will of course be ready to answer any queries from anyone interested in any of these tasks, and similarly ready to assist anyone who takes on one or more of these roles.

GROUP WEEKENDS ORGANISER(S)

Many of us have greatly enjoyed the Weekends that Stephen and Sheila Crosby have organised since 2014 – Eastbourne; Llandudno; Exmouth; Harrogate; Weymouth; Chollerford (Northumberland); Ilfracombe and, still to come, Tenby. These have become highlights of our Programme, taking us to areas that we would not otherwise reach and which were new to many of us. In last October’s Newsletter I passed on the news that Stephen and Sheila had decided that the Tenby Weekend would be their last.

So far, no one has offered to take on the arrangement of future weekends, and it now seems unlikely that there is time for arrangements for a Spring 2018 Group Weekend to be made, but if someone steps forward soon, a September 2018 Weekend might be possible. Sheila and Stephen’s will be a hard act to follow, partly because between them they have organised every aspect – the accommodation, bookings and the walk planning and most of the walk leading. It would certainly be possible to divide up the tasks, so that one person arranges the accommodation and handles members’ bookings, with the walks devised and led by others. Clearly, venue selection would require consultation between all those involved.

Additional walk leaders stepped forward to help with the Ilfracombe walks, and I’m sure that leaders will come forward for future weekends.

So, **we urgently need** a volunteer (or volunteers) to take on the organising of accommodation and the handling of bookings. Sheila has offered to share her experience of dealing with Sheerings Hotels and to help anyone wanting to know more about organising Group Weekends.

LOOKING FORWARD:

Our New Programme covering walks and events organised for the Summer and Autumn has been distributed with this Newsletter. Our thanks are due to all who contributed, walk leaders and programme organisers, and to Clive for his invaluable IT input. **Please note this amendment:**

Sunday 10th September, Grades A&B: Wistley Hill (overlooking Cheltenham) **Departure Time is 8.30am.** Please add this to your programme! Other events to note:-

15th/18th September: Tenby Group Weekend: (Reminder – these are the revised dates as advised in the October Newsletter). This weekend is fully booked, but if you have not booked and would like to take part, please contact Sheila Crosby, Tel: 01788 578733 in case places have become available due to cancellations.

The final payment for this weekend is now due – please use the Balance Payment Form attached to this Newsletter – **do not use the form** attached to December's Newsletter, as the payments due have now been revised downwards as Sheerings have given us a discount! The payments due depend on the accommodation chosen – if you're not sure what type of room you reserved, please check with Sheila before writing your cheque.

As stated above, this will be the last in the series of eight splendid weekends organised by Stephen and Sheila, for which we cannot thank them enough. With the exception of one damp Friday afternoon, all 7 weekends so far have enjoyed perfect weather for walking – we do hope for the same at Tenby!

Supper, Darts & Skittles Evening: 7.15pm, Wednesday 23rd August. The traditional social event to mark the end of the season of Wednesday Evening walks. As previously it will be at "The Queens Head", Bretford – note the 7.15pm start time. There will be the usual buffet supper and the light hearted darts and skittles tournament – with prizes! The cost will be £8.50 per head – please book your place(s) using the attached booking form and send it to Pat Downton, 9 Spottiswood Close, Cawston, Rugby, CV22 7GP, Tel 01788 521305 as soon as possible, as detailed on the form.

Coach Trip to West Shropshire Hills: Sunday 1st October:

Provisional details are that the Coach will head for the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre at Craven Arms, possibly setting down walking groups after Church Stretton. There will be A/B/C+ walks as usual. For anyone not wanting to join one of the walks, Stokesay Castle, said to be the finest and best preserved medieval fortified manor house in England, is less than a mile from the Discovery Centre. (English Heritage – £7.60 admission charge for non-members.)

The Coach will leave Barby Road Rugby at 7.30am with a pick up on the Leicester Road at the bus stop just north of the Mr Kipling Roundabout. The price per seat on this trip is £13-50. Arrival at Rugby on return will probably be at about 8.00pm.

Please return booking forms to Pat Downton, 9 Spottiswood Close, Cawston, Rugby, CV22 7GP, Tel 01788 521305 as soon as possible, 1st September latest. As our coach trips are often fully booked with a waiting list, please let Pat know as soon as possible if you have booked but are unable to go, even up to the day before, as there is a good possibility of being able to fill a seat at that late stage.

LOOKING BACK

Although last winter has been hailed as the "driest for 20 years", 2017 got off to an inauspicious start for us as our walk on 1st January was thoroughly wet, and turned out to be a tour of Leicestershire Church Porches, or anywhere else providing a respite from the constant rain! Kay and Richard's Wootton Wawen walk fared little better, with only "A" walkers deciding to brave another wet day!

However, the weather did us proud for Rugby Ramblers' "big day" on 4th February, when we played host to about 100 Ramblers from across Warwickshire for the Ramblers' Warwickshire Area AGM on 4th February. After the morning's AGM and buffet lunch, Rugby members led walks in bright sunshine into our near countryside or on a "Town Trail". My thanks to all the Rugby members who made this such a successful day. Our visitors were very complementary, and several commented that it was the best Area AGM they had been to! The Guest Speaker

Teri Moore, from Ramblers Central Office, a Ramblers' Trustee and Chair of "Capital Walkers" (London's fastest growing Ramblers Group) emailed as follows:

"I wanted to thank you all for the pleasant time that I had at your AGM this past weekend. I want to thank the Rugby Ramblers for the great venue and lunch, really is a perfect place for an AGM. I wanted to thank my chauffeur Bob for my lift to the AGM and for the lovely and informative walk afterwards. I got a real feel of life in Rugby and got to chat with many Ramblers."

At Warwickshire Area Council meeting in March there was a "unanimous vote of thanks for Rugby Group for organising a very successful AGM" and it was minuted that Teri Moore had written to say "that it was one of the best AGMs that she had attended." So, thanks again to all who contributed to this notable event.

Other recent highlights included April's Coach Trip to Castleton, where we enjoyed great walks in good weather. Our thanks go to Rodney Hugo for stepping in to lead the C+ walk, as sadly, Wendy Harrison is still unable to walk due to a back injury – we send our Best Wishes for her recovery. My thanks also to John Lake for leading the "A" walk at short notice, so that I could lead the "B" walk, as Sandra was full of a cold. It is great that we have leaders who can step in and lead "off the map". Whilst waiting for the coach to fill up for the return to Rugby, interest focussed on the unfolding drama of a distressed young lady who unfortunately found herself locked in the public toilets by a very careless attendant. A local man managed, after a struggle, to unbolt the steel gate to release her, and arrange a lift in place of her missed bus.

The Ilfracombe Weekend was another excellent event organised by Stephen and Sheila – good hotel, good location, good company, good walks in lovely coastal countryside in glorious weather! The wild flowers of Spring – primroses, bluebells and orchids set against the green grass and blue sky were quite remarkable. Not to mention the cream teas! The only downside was that, sadly, Stephen was suffering from tonsillitis, so Rodney led Stephen's Friday afternoon walk at very short notice. Fortunately Stephen recovered sufficiently to lead on Saturday, Sheila leading a C+ – well done both of you, and great to see Sheila back on form after her run of health problems! Thanks also to Richard and Kay for leading the "A" walks so that we could also have "B+" walks to help keep the "B" walk group to a manageable size.

The Quiz Night in February was good fun as usual – thanks to Quizmaster Tony Gibbons and assistant Barry, and the Soups and Puddings evening went well with great food and Rodney's excellent video. Thanks also to our friends at the Bowling Club – Steve & Ann Purcell.

Unfortunately our Annual Lunch in January continued to have declining support, despite moving to a town centre venue. Although a feature of our Programme for at least 43 years, its future is now under review.

John Gosling: Sadly, I have to report the death on 9th April of John Gosling at the great age of 94, after a short illness. John was a member of 30 years standing, although it is some years since he walked with the group. His funeral at Rugby Parish Church was well attended by friends and representatives of the many groups and organisations with which he was connected.

Vic Donovan: On a happier note, members will be pleased to hear that Vic, who was taken poorly after Christmas, is recovering well and by now should have moved into a Bungalow. Vic was a keen member and walk leader until suffering a string of health issues, but has continued to keep in touch with his friends in Rugby Ramblers by joining us for social events and in the pub after Wednesday evening walks.

This Newsletter with Booking Forms for the events listed is available from our Website, also the Walk Report ("green") Forms and Expenses Claim ("yellow") Forms. To access these it is necessary to login to the Members Area, using the Password wk04 (wk lower case; 0 is a zero).

I hope you will all enjoy some fine walks with good companions over the coming months,

Graham Bevan, Chairman

BOOKING FORM: COACH TRIP: WEST SHROPSHIRE HILLS: SUNDAY 1st OCTOBER 2017

NAME(S): Telephone No.....

ADDRESS:

I/We anticipate that I/We will join the:A / B / C+ Walk (Please circle/delete as appropriate)

I/We wish to be picked up by the Mr Kipling roundabout on the Leicester Road

Detach this form and send as soon as possible to Pat Downton, 9 Spottiswood Close, Cawston, Rugby, CV22 7GP, Tel 01788 521305, together with a cheque for £13.50 each, payable to Rugby Ramblers' Social Fund, and marked "Shropshire Coach Trip" on the back.

(Refunds cannot normally be made if bookings are cancelled less than 7 days before the event unless seats can be re-sold.)

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BOOKING FORM: SUPPER, DARTS & SKITTLES EVENING: WED 23rd AUGUST 2017The Queen's Head, Bretford. **NOTE:** Please arrive by 7.15pm so that a prompt start can be made.

NAME(S): Telephone No.....

ADDRESS:

I enclose a cheque for £..... (£8-50 per person, payable to: Rugby Ramblers' Social Fund, and with "Darts & Skittles" written on the back.) Please detach this form and send **as soon as possible, 31st July latest**, to: Pat Downton, 9 Spottiswood Close, Cawston, Rugby, CV22 7GP, Tel 01788 521305.

There is a limit of 40, so get your booking forms in ASAP!

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BALANCE FORM: GROUP WEEKEND – TENBY: Friday 15th/Monday18th SEPTEMBER 2017

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS FORM HAS BEEN UPDATED FROM THAT SENT OUT IN DECEMBER TO SHOW THE REDUCED PAYMENTS NOW REQUIRED. PLEASE ONLY USE THIS FORM.

NAME(S): Telephone No.....

ADDRESS: Post Code:

Email address:

<u>ACCOMMODATION</u> (All rooms en-suite)	<u>MEALS</u>	(Balance required per Person)	
Single Room	Fri/Sat/Sun Dinners, Sat/Sun/Mon Breakfasts included	£161.00	
Single Room with Sea View		£177.00	
Standard Double/Twin Room		£142.00	
Standard Double/Twin with Sea View		£163.00	
Standard Plus Double/Twin Room		£157.00	
Standard Plus Double/Twin with Sea View		£178.00	
Please attach the balance cheque made payable to: Rugby Ramblers Social Fund. Please mark back of cheque “Tenby W/E”		TOTAL:	
Shearings have given a 10% discount and this has been deducted from your balance.			
I/We intend to join the A/ B+/or B Walks (Please circle A/ B+/or B as appropriate)			

Complete/delete as appropriate, detach this form and send with your accompanying cheque by **30th JUNE 2017** to:- Sheila Crosby, 25 Westgate Road, Rugby, Warwickshire CV21 3UD. (Tel: 01788 578733)