

NEWSLETTER JANUARY – JUNE 2016

SUMMER SUPPER

We must thank Janet, our Chairman, for another first class event. I know that she goes to a lot of trouble to ensure these things are successful and I think that she more than succeeded yet again as evidenced by the turnout. Janet had anticipated around 50 diners but in the event we had over 70! Unfortunately the numbers meant that we had to have the long tables – I prefer the round ones but others disagree (how dare they!) – to be able to accommodate everybody who wanted to come.

I think these social events are only organised so that Len can torture us with his fiendish quizzes. Although he had promised your committee that he would try to make the quiz easier, I don't think he tried too hard. He even had the cheek to include a question about himself – how diabolical can you get!?

Many thanks go to Janet and Len.

Please note the advance information about the 2017 Summer Supper in "Dates for your Diary". Further details will be announced in due course but do get your booking form in early to be sure to get a place as we would not want you to miss the event of the 2017 summer season.



Quiz master Extraordinaire

MEMORIAL WALK

Please see Mary's In Memoriam below.

Jill's family have kindly agreed that it would be a nice gesture in her memory if we held a walk in Jill's honour in August. The exact date is to be fixed in agreement with the family and will be announced in due course.

It is proposed that 2 walks from Scotney Castle, where Jill volunteered, are arranged, a longer and a shorter one. It is intended that the walks end at about the same time and that we meet after for tea in the café at Scotney.

I do hope that we get a good turnout to recognise the important contribution that Jill made to the Club over so many years.

Editor

COACH TRIP

The day trip to Windsor was very successful this year and it has been decided by your Committee that we will keep up the theme of Castles, but this time go to Arundel on 13th May. Planning of the route or routes has yet to be completed but it is intended to have a 5 mile walk and a longer one if there is sufficient demand.

Eric has worked hard getting quotations and the coach has now been booked with the cost being £15.00 per head including coach parking and gratuity for the driver.

A booking form will be sent out with the AGM details when timings, pick up points and route details will be given. If you want to reserve a seat please email me at peter@pstallwood.com or phone on 01892 723343. You do not have to pay yet – just give us your commitment. Do not miss out – reserve your seat now!!

AGM

This has been booked for 4th April 2017 at St John's Church Hall, Tunbridge Wells. The format will be the same as this year with the formal part being followed by refreshments and the popular (yes really!) quiz.

LONGER WEDNESDAY WALKERS

This summer we have had wonderful weather for walking with some new destinations including Crowhurst, Staplecross, Forest Row and Eridge Green (and some new tea rooms afterwards!)

In June we did two boat trips. One led by Sylvia across Bewl Water and we walked back to the Visitor Centre. For our second one, once again we took our boat trip from Newenden but this time we headed towards Rye. We got off at Wittersham and walked back to the finish with a scrumptious cream tea in the new tea rooms at the Newenden Boat Station. We were very lucky with the weather as the forecast the night before had been dire but only one person cancelled. 23 people turned up and we were rewarded with good weather especially lunchtime when we sat on the bank of the River Rother in the sunshine!

In September we did a walk on the South Downs in memory of Jeremy who sadly passed away last year as this was one of his favourite spots for walking.

In October Sheila led a walk from Wadhurst that took us through the deer park. With some trepidation we entered the park as, of course, it is the rutting season but we survived unscathed; in fact the deer were way off in the distance. However what we did see were the absolutely wonderful colours of autumn on the trees and bushes.

Eric Botley

WEDNESDAY 5 MILE WALKERS

Our Five Mile Wednesday Walkers have enjoyed another full and varied programme of walks ranging from Toys Hill to Barcombe Mill, Benenden to Four Elms – mostly easy terrain but sometimes a bit more challenging. We have naughtily hopped over broken bridges, braved bulls and various other obstacles. We enjoy picnic lunches come rain or shine and are grateful to Jackie & Bob who usually supply tea and coffee and biscuits after the walks and sometimes we have cake, usually to celebrate birthdays. We generally have about 25 or so walkers although sadly this year we have lost some of our ‘old’ regulars due to ill health. As I write we are looking forward to our Christmas Lunch and then that will be another year done and dusted.



Flanders Field



Happy Wednesday Walkers

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Janet Wilson

FRIDAY WALKERS

Earlier in the year, I recall hearing various grumbles that numbers for Friday walkers were dropping off and those falling by the wayside were not being replaced. This immediately brings to mind one or two notable, recent casualties, such as Sarah Walker and Christine Bryan, who have always been stalwart members, contributing much to the life of the group but who have been laid low by tiresome injuries. (We’ve had some better news recently from Sarah and hope to see both of them back in action eventually). On the other hand, given that we are told that we live in a country with a famously ageing population, consisting of pampered baby boomers on good pensions (or so the papers would have you believe), it is logical to expect a steady

trickle of new recruits to organisations catering for the whims of the retired. And fortunately, so it has proved. Without making any significant effort to find new members, not only have we had a steady trickle of new recruits, we have also been experiencing record turnouts on Fridays, to the point where some members have wondered aloud whether we are almost being too successful! However, I think this should not worry us unduly. We have had excellent walking weather, like Goldilocks' porridge, not too hot, not too cold, combined with a relatively dry summer which has given us perfect conditions underfoot. This surely cannot last right through the winter months, when the mud and damp may start to deter some members from turning out.

One of the aspects of the Friday group that I have always enjoyed is that it has never been especially competitive and whether consciously or not, it has always had an open, welcoming attitude. We have been lucky generally to be able to find enough people to lead walks without too much difficulty, while not making it an obligation to lead. Long may this continue. Clearly the more people prepared to lead a walk from time to time, the better. Anybody considering leading one for the first time will find other members willing to help them, identify possible problems or to assist with map reading or an initial 'walk out'. I recall consulting Sheila about how to start planning a walk; she gave me the invaluable advice that the first and most important thing was to find adequate parking! Obvious, when you think about it, but I hadn't thought about it and that hint really helped.

A quieter time of year in the countryside, in late summer with fewer birds and flowers about, but not without one or two memorable episodes. Jose attempting to climb over a stile with the aid of a bucket is not a sight likely to be forgotten in a hurry. The bucket came off worst. Jose also succeeded in scandalising the group by being caught having coffee and cake at the Duddleswell Tearoom rather than walking on Ashdown Forest and then compounded her sins by taking a shortcut to the pub for lunch. Clearly bent on being the centre of attention! However, the Friday Group's table at the excellent Summer Supper, including Jose and George, did redeem themselves by winning the quiz. On that positive note, I shall close, hoping that the last quarter of the year is as enjoyable as the previous two have been, walking the delightful, 'undulating' countryside of Kent and Sussex.

Nick Churchill

ALL DAY SUNDAY WALKERS

We have enjoyed some interesting and varied walks this summer from the unusual habitat on the shingle of Dungeness, the chalk cliffs and downlands of the South Downs, to getting splashed by the runners on the North Downs Run. We finished the 50 miles of the Wealden Round, which uses more of our local paths, in July with a celebration in the Penshurst tea garden. Many thanks to the four leaders and to Claire for organising the minibus.

With thanks to Janet and Dermot and the aid of Dave's taxis, we started the 1066 Walk from Pevensey following the supposed route taken by William the Conqueror 950 years ago. We decided to take it in three stages to give us time to visit places of interest such as Herstmonceux Castle, with its beautiful gardens, and Battle, before finishing in Rye at the end of October. Haven't the Autumn colours been extra good this year? Next year we are planning to walk the 153 miles of the North Downs Way on one Sunday each month. Details will be in the walk section of the programme.

Mary Blinks

TUESDAY EVENING WALKS

We had some beautiful summer evenings for our Tuesday evening walks this year, which were attended by an average of 7 walkers each week. And as the summer carried on into September, so did we, a highlight being the scarecrow walk through Motts Mill!

Mary Blinks

FAMILY NEWS

In Memoriam

Jill Rouse

It is with great sadness that we have to report that Jill died in August following a brave fight against cancer. Being a regular Sunday walker she volunteered to become Rambles Secretary in 2000, saying she was not confident to lead walks, but collecting walk details and typing them up was something she could do, and she did it very efficiently until 2012, having become our Vice Chairman in 2011. She used to join us on the Club holidays and Longer Distance Walks, latterly joining the longer Wednesday walkers. She also restarted our coach rambles with a day out in Broadstairs in 2015. She organised the Summer Supper at the Nevill Golf Club for several years, so it was very fitting that the Celebration Party following her funeral was held there, where it was attended by a large number of family and friends from the various organisations to which she belonged, who were able to share their happy memories. She played golf and volunteered at Scotney and the Mind Charity Shop.

Jill was a very determined lady who was as active and independent as she could be until the very last.

Mary Blinks

EDITOR'S FOOTNOTE

This is your newsletter and I welcome any contributions in the form of articles or pictures to help make it more interesting. Come on, there must be somebody in our great club that has a literary bent or a desire to follow David Bailey. Please make my life easier!!

Finally-

We are coming up to the festive season which always seems to start earlier and earlier each year. Normally, for me Christmas starts on 24th December but I will make an exception for all my friends in TWRC and wish you all



A very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous 2017



Editor