

Rothsay Ramblers

A club of the Rothsay Education Centre (Bedford)

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2017

Thank you to our Walk Leaders 

First and foremost, a big thank-you to all members who have led walks over the last six months. We could not possibly offer such a varied and interesting set of walks without your commitment and enthusiasm.

Walks Programmes: June - December 2017

Copies of all walks programmes have been emailed or posted to all members. Printed copies are displayed on the REC noticeboard and downloadable versions are available on the Ramblers website.

Greens Walkers Amble rather than Ramble!

Our Green Walks organisers, Roger and Barbara Pheasant, are on the lookout for new members who enjoy a relaxed and friendly amble, rather than a strenuous 5 mile stride out. They would like us to mention this when we are talking to classmates at the REC, as they think that not everyone realises we also have a slower 3 mile walking group. They have even come up with their own slogan - *Green Walkers Amble rather than Ramble*. Look out for the car stickers!

Specialist Walks

Geology Walk: In March this year, Brian Kerr (a lecturer from the REC who had recently run a course on the 'Making of the Bedfordshire Landscape') joined one of our Clophill walks and provided the group with information on the geology of the area during the walk. This was extremely interesting and much appreciated by the group. In addition, we were treated to a guided tour of St. Mary's Old Church at Clophill. Thanks go to Jan Shoosmith for organising this tour.



At the 2017 AGM in Biddenham Village Hall, it was suggested that we try and organise other specialist walks, for example, a botany walk and a bird watching walk. Your committee are working on this suggestion and we are pleased to let you know that a botany Jade walk is being arranged for Spring 2018. It will be led by Dr Richard Jefferson, a botanist with Natural England. If members have other suggestions for specialist walks, please let a member of the committee know.

London Walk Monday 29th May 2017



On May Bank Holiday Monday, Richard Hopkin led a very interesting two hour walk starting from Blackfriars Station, along the Embankment - including the lovely gardens - and through Trafalgar Square and St. James Park. Lunch was at Wetherspoons Whitehall. The walk included plenty of historical information provided by Richard and was very much enjoyed by all who attended. Thank you Richard.

London Walk Monday 28th August 2017



On August Bank Holiday, this year's second London walk will cover the old railway line from Alexandria Palace via Highgate to Finsbury Park, now called the Parkland walk. At some point, leader Fytton Rowland will bore you with the history of the railway! Lunch will be at the Woodman pub near Highgate

Underground station, from where those wanting a shorter walk can take the Tube or a 134 bus back to Central London.

Linear Walk 17th August 2017: Bury St Edmunds



The 2017 Linear Walk will take place on Thursday 17th August, and will follow the St Edmunds Way to Bury St Edmunds, a town of parks, tea rooms and many historic buildings. There are three different walk options of 10, 6 and 2.5 miles.

A coach will pick people up from Aspects in Bedford at 8.30am and also from St Neots, and return them back to their cars at 8 pm, after stopping for a group dinner on the return journey. There are still a few places left on the coach, and bookings are now open to non-members.

Ramblers Holiday in Portugal 2017

Thirteen members enjoyed a walking holiday at the beginning of April in Portugal. The holiday was organised with HF Holidays, and the leaders were excellent. Every day there was a choice of two walks,



varying in length between 5 and 10 miles, walks along the coast with beautiful sea views, and inland walks enjoying a profusion of spring flowers. The holiday was in Tavira, a very interesting small town in the

eastern Algarve, with a short ferry ride to an island where the main beach was situated. The hotel itself was extremely comfortable, with two swimming pools, good food and friendly staff.

Next year's holiday has just been finalised: 16 members will be going to Exmoor in September 2018. Holidays have to be arranged well in advance in order to get a special group discount with HF, and to make sure there is enough room for the whole group. In April 2019 we are due to go abroad again.

If any member is interested in joining us for a future holiday, please let the Holiday Organiser know (Christine Dewbury – christine.dewbury@btinternet.com, or telephone 01234 781686.

Cruise on the Ouse



On Wednesday 17th May 2017, there was a Ramblers trip on the John Bunyan Riverboat. The trip left Priory Marina at 2.30 pm, cruised to Cardington Lock and returned to the marina at 4.30 pm. Despite the bad weather, those who went on the trip reported a fun afternoon with a quiz and afternoon tea.

Membership

Current membership stands at about 130. Thank you to everyone who has renewed and a warm welcome to all our new members. I hope you are enjoying the walks. Remember to keep an eye on the website too where you will find news of other events and activities through the year.

A reminder to all members - please let me know if your address, phone number or email changes. Also, although everyone has their allocated walking groups which we ask you to keep to, from time to time members may wish to permanently change group. If this is the case, again please let Val James know. You can mail her at valeriejilljames@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01234 360005.

Sweatshirts, T-Shirts, Polo Shirts & Zipped Tops

We have a great supplier for Ramblers apparel and we can obtain sweatshirts (£15), t-shirts (£12), polo shirts (£13) and zipped tops (£20) in a wide range of colours with our logo. Contact Hazel Woodward [Email: hazel.woodward73@gmail.com; Phone 01234 303221.



Dates for your diary



The Ramblers Christmas meal will take place at the REC on Wednesday 13th December. Reminders will be sent out nearer the time and bookings will be available via the website.



The 2018 Annual General Meeting of the Rothsay Ramblers will be held on Monday 14th May in Biddenham Village Hall.



Bedfordshire Walking Festival will take place between the 9th and 17th September.
<https://www.bedswalkfest.co.uk/>

And finally

With thanks to Dave Cavanagh, Chair, Oxfordshire Ramblers taken from the Ramblers Magazine.

Walk leaders' speak translated

I used a piece of string to work out the distance of the route. *I guessed.*

The river level should have dropped since I did the recce. *Those with wellies should be fine.*

Rain is forecast for near the end of the walk. *If you talk less and walk more, we'll get back dry.*

We are going to take an alternative route. *I missed a turn half a mile back, too busy nattering.*

Rothsay Ramblers Committee 2017

Chair	Teresa Moon	01234 771418	Teresa@moon.co.uk
Honorary Secretary	Hazel Woodward	01234 303221	hazel.woodward73@gmail.com
Honorary Treasurer	John Simpson	01234 213004	john.r.simpson@btinternet.com
Membership Secretary	Val James	01234 360005	valeriejilljames@yahoo.co.uk
Holiday Organiser	Christine Dewbury	01234 781686	christine.dewbury@btinternet.com
Web Administrator	Roger Stokes	01234 261812	r.s.stokes.65@cantab.net
Walks Coordinators			
Red	Christine Fielder Angela Chappell	01234 764825 01234 216021	chrifteacher@aol.com angela.chappell23@btinternet.com
Orange/Blue	Fytton Rowland	01234 303221	fyttton.rowland@gmail.com
Jade	Phillipa Partington	01234 350524	phillipapartington@gmail.com
Green	Barbara Pheasant Roger Pheasant	01234 822573	barbarad2@btinternet.com rogerphez@gmail.com