

ROTHSAY RAMBLERS

A club of the Rothsay Education Centre (Bedford)

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2015

Officers and Committee Members:

Robin Rowles	Chairman	tbc	Hon. Secretary
Elizabeth Belcher	Hon. Treasurer	vacant	Web Manager
Val James	Membership Sec	Kathy Wright	Orange/Blue Walks Co-ord
Angela Chappell	Red Walks Co-ord	Sheila Harradine	Green Walks Co-ord
Christine Fielder	Red Walks Co-ord	Teresa Moon	Social Events Organizer
Jan Shoosmith	Jade Walks Co-ord	Marie Gallagher	Holiday Organizer

Changes to the committee structure: The role of Membership Secretary has been re-instated and is separate from that of Honorary Secretary.

New Committee members: We are glad to welcome Val James as Membership Secretary; and Angela Chappell and Christine Fielder as joint Red Walks Co-ordinators.

AGM 2015: Chairman's Report: Robin is happy that the club continues to flourish and is grateful to the volunteers who lead walks and to those who co-ordinate the groups to ensure that there is always a varied programme of walks available. Several committee members have left the committee: Sally Wright and Jen Jones have stepped down as Red Walks Co-ordinators. Robert Oliver has been Web Manager for the club and, amongst other things, has instituted the uploading of the walk routes for the benefit of members. Roy Ashley, who has acted as both Secretary and Membership Secretary, is retiring for health reasons, having previously been Treasurer. Happily Roy's health is improving. Roy and Robert developed the website and our e-communications systems, crucial elements in the club's administration. Robin thanks all of these as well as Gail who has acted as temporary secretary.

Membership: We have approximately 147 members; the figures are not exact at the moment as renewals/new memberships are still underway. If you know anyone who is interested in joining the club, please put them in touch with Val James.

Renewing Membership: The most efficient way to renew your Ramblers membership is to do it when you renew your REC membership, whether you pay by bank transfer or by cheque. Just book Ramblers as you would book any other course. You don't have to do anything more. The REC will notify the Treasurer and Membership Secretary and will pass on your details. If you have already joined the REC without joining Ramblers please either follow instructions on the Ramblers website or contact Val James, phone 01234 360005.

Monday walks: The walks' co-ordinators are grateful to all those who have led walks previously and to those who have signed up for the coming 6 months. Angela and Chris, the new co-ordinators for Red walks, thank Jen and Sally for their work, and are looking forward to putting together new lists in 2016. The more people who lead, the lighter the load on the others. Members are reminded that leaders and backmarkers should ideally both be familiar with the route. Leaders should particularly be aware that some members walk more slowly than others, and should ensure that all the walkers are given opportunity to stop for a drink or a few moments rest during the walk. Some members carry whistles as a means of alerting others, perhaps more people could consider doing this.

If you would like to lead or would like to be linked up with a 'walking buddy' please talk to your walks co-ordinator. To avoid duplication, members of Blue group normally lead walks for Red 1 and Red 2, and members of Orange lead for Blue and Orange. Jade walks are open to all members. Since there are fewer

members in Jade and Green, they call on the 5-mile walkers to lead some walks for them. Any member can lead the longer 6-7.5 mile walks on the Red schedule.

Members are reminded that, since we use the pub's toilet and car parking facilities, we are expected to stay for lunch or at the very least a drink. This is another way for walkers to socialise and is an opportunity for new members to get to know people in their groups.

Special Walks: Barrie Mason's Birding walk in January proved to be a rewarding experience as members were able to observe a variety of species, including a great white egret and several goldeneye. The London walk did not take place in May unfortunately because of Richard Hopkins' indisposition and we hope he will be fit enough to resume next year.

Annual party: This very enjoyable party, organized by Teresa Moon with a team of helpers, took place in March. After the usual delicious 'Bring and Share' lunch, members attempted various quizzes, then participated in country dancing, led with good humour by Hilary Andrews and Roger Nicholls. This was followed by Mike's Line Dancing and some members exhibited considerable skill in this.

Occasional Dining Club: Graham's club continues to attract a loyal following and members have enjoyed meals from various international cuisines. The next event takes place on 2 July at 6.30 pm at The Spice Shop on Bedford High Street. Contact Graham Trundle on 01234 346918 for more information.

Linear Walk: This year's Linear Walk, to take place on Wednesday 12 August, will be in the Saffron Walden area. Full details and a booking form will be available on the website.

Walking Holiday: The Club organizes an annual walking holiday either at a venue in the UK or further afield. Recent holidays have included Isle of Wight, Dartmoor, Turkey and Menorca. The holiday for 2015 will be in Long Stretton, Shropshire while we are now looking ahead to 2016 with a provisional booking made for St Ives, Cornwall, 27 August to 3 September. These holidays provide a great opportunity for seeing the countryside and making new friends. There are still vacancies available for 2016 so if you would like more information contact Marie Gallagher on 01234 271869.

Art and Craft Exhibition: An exhibition of members' talents in various forms of craft was much admired at the AGM in May, and Kathy Wright thanks all those who contributed. We hope to see more examples of people's artistic pursuits at future AGM's.

Christmas Lunch: Following our recent tradition the Christmas Lunch is to take place at the REC on Wednesday 16 December. Those of us who have already participated know that it is another good social event offered by the Ramblers. Details will be announced later.

Committee posts vacant: A member has volunteered to act as Hon. Secretary. The Committee is grateful to her and her name will be published shortly. Her appointment is subject to being co-opted at the next Committee Meeting on 7 September. The post of website manager is vacant following Robert's retirement from the committee. If anyone with IT skills or a willingness to be trained is interested please talk to Robin, or to Robert Oliver.

Future events: the 2016 Lunch Party will be held on Friday 11 March from 12.30 to 4.00 pm at Renhold Village Hall.