



Beachy Head Ramblers Newsletter

January/February 2021

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Welcome to the latest newsletter from your editor.

Well not your normal editor. As I have not much to do at present in organising social events for you all I thought I would try my hand at writing a newsletter !!

What a year it has been for all of us. Many of you have stayed in touch with me over the past year by email and it is so nice to stay in touch and hear what everyone is getting up to, so do keep the emails coming in.

I have spent most of the lockdown doing lots of walking and logging every proper walk I do - I am just a bit short of doing 2000 miles this year at the time of writing. I may have to try harder next year. Even my dog has been complaining about the milage.

I am very sorry that I cancelled the Christmas walk. I had about 25 of you wanting to take part which was really good as a turnout but given the covid circumstances I decided it really was not the right time to be going out with a large group and if I reduced it to 6 there would be to many disappointed people.

We have got quite a number of walks planned for January and February and I thank the many walk leaders for entering walks in such an uncertain time. You will get a printed programme and do check the website for constant updates. You obviously do need to text the walk leaders to book your place on all walks which I think for the time being will be maximum 6 until we know further details of restrictions etc

David

Group Holiday

I have decided to try to repeat the holiday in Exmoor which never happened in 2020 We will go on Friday 11th June and return on Friday 18th June.

This is a lovely area for a summer holiday and I will be organising group walks every day of about 10 miles or so with a leisurely pace. You don't have to walk every day if you don't want to.

We will do a day trip to Lundy and there will be evening entertainment etc

Numbers will be limited to 18 as otherwise it gets difficult going out in a group for evening meals etc.

Email me if you are interested and the first to email will be on the list otherwise I will keep a reserve list in case of cancellations.

Cuckmere Inn Car Park

This car park has been used in the past for free parking. It is owned by the pub and is now a controlled parking area for pub users only.

If using this area the main parking for the visitor centre is pay and display.

Seven Sisters Exceat Bridge update

Ramblers have given the following update

ESCC have published their plans for a replacement bridge at this well known bottle neck, which is welcomed by Ramblers, however, taking the lead from open spaces society we have written to ESCC to support the latter's proposal for a 20mph speed limit at the bridge and along the Cuckmere causeway as a safety matter. The existing narrow bridge and tight bends provide some forced traffic calming at a location which can be thronging with walkers and cyclists during the summer, but which will be lost with the new bridge and straightened lay out. For now ESCC have rejected the proposal but I understand there will be another opportunity to comment on the planning application once it has been submitted to the South Downs National Park Authority next spring.

Lighthouse Group

I am very excited about our new group for working parties to go out and carry out path maintenance work. I am hoping we can get started in the spring time going out say 2 days a month to start with doing path clearance work, repairs to stiles and finger posts etc. I have 10 members who have been registered as volunteers and if anyone else wants to join in do let me know.

Ramblers have given me much support in setting this group up and we are covered by their insurance. To start with we have an agreement to carry out work for Eastbourne and Lewes Council's who will sign off the work. Later in the year we may well be able to work with ESCC as volunteers and if all goes well I will contact other Council's to be on their volunteer lists.

We rely on footpath wardens and all you walkers to make a note if you see something that needs doing whilst you are out walking so just make a note of the problem with a grid reference or details of where the path is and I will look to sort it out.

In time if we have any decent projects we may have our own signage to advertise the group.

England Coast path.

There are two sections of the England coast path within our area namely Shoreham to Eastbourne and then Eastbourne to Camber.

Shoreham to Eastbourne.

This section was agreed by DEFRA in December 2019 and since then the local access authorities along the route have been working on installing the new infrastructure needed (e.g. signage, dropped kerbs, path improvements). Not surprisingly the cover pandemic has caused disruption and delays in getting this done. We are told this work may be finished in time for this stretch to open in summer 2021 and Elaine has registered our desire to be involved where feasible.

Eastbourne to Camber.

This stretch is still with the Secretary of State and is awaiting sign off by the end of 2020 along with many other parts of England. Once this has been achieved then the local authorities will be responsible for signage and infrastructure etc. We are

not expecting any changes to the route proposed by Natural England in spring 2020 despite representations being put forward. Again Elaine has registered our interest to be involved where feasible.

Kent ramblers have produced several really good publications including part 1 a guide to the coast path Camber to Ramsgate. Maybe BHR group could follow on producing a guide book to our two sections of the path - I will give it some thought.

Newsletter.

Well at this point you are probably fed up with me and want Alan back on the newsletter. Do let me know what you think and maybe everyone takes a turn writing the newsletter articles every 2 months - any takers let me know.

Don't lose your way (DLYW) campaign

The Sussex area ramblers, Chris Smith is the coordinator, has been looking at lost footpaths and trying to get them re-instated. On the whole our area is not looking too bad, but there is an issue around alleys and twittens in Eastbourne town possibly not being registered on the current map. (this is also the case in Brighton, Lewes, and Horsham so we are not alone and Chris has other people and organisations looking at them) but we wondered if you would want to be involved in looking at those in Eastbourne Town ?? It seems routes that were in place pre 1949 are most at risk, but it could also be those on newer estates have also not been properly recorded. The best way of identifying unrecorded rights of way is for someone who lives in or who is familiar with that part of town to look at the online map of rights of way to see what is missing. The online version of the definitive map can be found at [https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/leisureand tourism/countryside/rightsofway/map/map.aspx](https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/leisureand%20tourism/countryside/rightsofway/map/map.aspx)

Then once routes alleys/twittens etc have been identified we then need to get witness forms filled in and again Sussex ramblers/Beachy Head ramblers could help with this. For example by getting letters printed off asking for signatures, comments etc on alley twitten use or we could use our BHR website and put forms on there to be downloaded by people.

If you think you would like to get involved then please contact Elaine Saunders on the above BHR email on the top of the newsletter.



What about this for a strange sign on a footpath.

If you see any others do let me know with pictures please.

To end on I have read this article in several places.

Maybe we don't have it to bad.

Its a mess out there now. Hard to discern between what is a real threat and what is just simple panic and hysteria. For a small amount of perspective at this moment, imagine you were born in 1900.

On your 14th birthday, World War 1 starts and ends up on your 18th birthday. 22 million people were killed in the war. Later this year a Spanish flue epidemic hits the planet and runs until your 20th birthday.

50 million people die from it in those two years. Yes 50 million.

On your 29th birthday, the great depression begins. Unemployment hits 25%, the world gdp drops 27%. That runs until you are 33. The country nearly collapses along with the world economy.

When you turn 39 World War II starts. You aren't even over the hill yet. And don't try to catch your breath. Between your 39th and 45th birthday, 75 million people die in the war.

Smallpox was epidemic until you were in your 40's as it killed 300 million people during your lifetime.

At 50 the Korean war starts and 5 million are killed. At 55 the Vietnam war begins and doesn't end for 20 years. 4 million people are killed in that conflict.

Your parents and or grandparents were called to endure all of the above and now you are called to stay at home and sit on the sofa.

With love peace and happiness over Christmas.