



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

At the AGM Andrew, our Chairman, said we would tell you a bit about the members of your Committee. So below a photo of the those at our last committee meeting, and then a pic and profiles of the two who were missing that day because of illness or injury.



So left to right: Linda Bailey (Newsletter Editor) Grew up in Staines, has walked on water, (when the Thames froze over) and moved to Sussex over 40 years ago! Done many things as people did back then including journalism, conference, event, health management and tutored for OU and others. Decided to have fun and travel taking guests around the world, which is why I have rarely been seen on BHR walks but have been spotted on BHR weeks away. With travel much curtailed I plan to walk more in the UK, and may even lead, but leading over fields is not quite as easy as city streets!!

Next: Andrew Scallan: Moved to Eastbourne from the Manchester area in late August 2017 to be closer to the family. Now semi-retired he is Deputy Chair of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. One of the reasons for the move was to have easy access to the Downs so the Meads a great location to have chosen and every day feels a bit like a holiday despite still working. Membership of BHR has been great for improving knowledge of the area, becoming a walk leader and creating a circle of friends. He won the 2020 BHR cooking competition and made the leek and potato soup and cake for the AGM.

In the middle of the photo our Walks and Social Programme Organiser: David Fry. A registered architect, who, in his spare time, enjoys woodturning and designing and making furniture. As a teenager he spent most of his time walking and climbing in the Lakes, North Wales and the Pennine Way. In his semi-retirement, he has taken up mountaineering again, and is due to complete his full mountain leader qualifications in May this year so if anyone needs a mountain guide then give him a call. He is also a qualified outdoor first aider and has an NNAS gold award in navigation. Always on the go, last year he walked over 3000 miles; we may see a little less of him on Beachy Head Walks this year due to an ambitious climbing and walking programme, but he will still be around contributing his time and energy to BHR.

Next to David, Neil Parkinson, our new Secretary, reports that he and his wife Hannah bought their first tent to walk the Grand Canyon now some years ago. When they decided to quit the 9-5 life they again invested in property, buying another tent, to get them from Lands' End to John O'Groats. The hardest part being when the walk came to an end. They have taken up residence in Alfriston High Street and walk the Downs and pubs in both directions along the coast and around London. Some favourite things are: science, space, Sondheim, Neal Stephenson, theatre, Japan and Sweden. And, should you be stuck indoors, Neil recommends exploring the beautiful solar system within The Outer Wilds game.

FEBRUARY WALK DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

NB walks listed here start at 10.00 with an estimated finish time of 15.30 EXCEPT Breaky Bottom estimated end 16.00 hrs.

Wednesday: 2 February

A walk around Rushlake Green

10 miles/16/1 km

Meet outside the Horse and Groom pub.

Grid reference: TQ626183

Nearest postcode: TN21 9QE

Leader: Peter S 07827 360784

Wednesday: 9 February

A walk around Telscombe

11 miles/17.7km

Meet Telscombe Cliffs recreation ground.

Grid reference: TQ403023

Nearest postcode: BN10 7DP

Leader: Bob Cook 07961 432471

Saturday: 13 February

A walk on the Down around Alfriston.

10 miles/16/1 km

Meet North Road, Alfriston, outside the village school.

Grid reference: TQ517034

Nearest postcode: BN26 5XB

Leaders: Jackie and Geoff 07749847523

Sunday 20 February:

A walk around Hamsey, Barcombe and Lewes

10 miles/16.1 km

Meet bus stop opposite Lewes prison

Grid reference: TQ404100

Nearest postcode: BN7 1EA

Leader: Kris F. 07884381280

Wednesday 23 February

A walk around Breaky Bottom by the man himself.

13.5 miles/21.7 K

Meet at Saltdean Lido. Free car parking.

Grid reference: TQ380020

Nearest postcode: BN2 8SP

Leader: Bob B 07808 290538

Sunday 27 February

A walk around the Ouse and Fletching

10 miles/16/1 km

Meet Heaven Farm car park

Grid reference: TQ406263

Nearest postcode: TN22 3RG

Leader: Peter S 07827 360784



Finally in the photo gang of five: Elaine Saunders who started recreational walking in July 2018 when she joined Beachy Head Ramblers. From November 2018 to November 2020 she was Secretary of BHR and in November 2021 became our Treasurer. Before taking early retirement, Elaine was an accountant for an insurance company so is well qualified for the post. In 2021 Elaine set herself a target of 2500 miles, which she achieved, and did some of those miles leading walks for our group. More on her walks and walking ambitions for 2022 in the next issue. Meanwhile she has also been a driving force in the Don't Lose Your Way Campaign focussing on reporting on and contributing to ensuring that we save and maintain Eastbourne's urban footpaths. As if this were not enough, she is a footpath warden for Alciston and a life member of the Ramblers Association.

Not to be forgotten, but poorly on the day the group photo was taken, Suzie Tomkins our Membership Secretary. Suzie has walked regularly for years but is now finding that arthritis is affecting her knees which means her walking days with the group may be over. Hopefully not! Thankfully Eastbourne is flat so you will still see her out and about enjoying the seafront. You may also see her indulging one of her passions: jazz at the Fisherman's Club in Eastbourne, or in Seaford, Hove and at Swanage Jazz Festival. Another is cooking; witness the delicious parsnip soup at the AGM



Last, but definitely not least, Lucie Thornycroft. Around for many years, and our long-suffering Evening Walks Co-ordinator, because no-one else has come forward to take on the role, which Lucie would like to relinquish. So, any takers? Please!! Meanwhile, if anyone who know Lucie can believe it, Lucie would prefer to remain anonymous!!!!??!

Not on the main committee, but contributing by working on the updating of our website: Richard Stenson, who we will feature in a later issue, and Mark Osborn who is going to work on our Facebook presence. So 'communications' definitely a work in progress as will be the content, format and presentation of our newsletter, which will monitor and take account of your feedback and changes in colour, hues, and format being adopted at national level. For our own part, we propose, for a while at least, to go for a monthly newsletter which we hope you will contribute to; circulated at the end of the month and wherever possible including diary dates and outline details of the walks and any social events forthcoming the next month, or in coming months. Full detail relating to the walks will continue to be supplied on the Ramblers website.

AGM & BEYOND by Andrew Scallan

Sunday 30 November dawned bright and sunny and Lucie lead 32 on a walk arriving back at East Dean a little earlier than expected! Admission to the hall had not been possible until 1 p.m. so the team of Linda, Suzie and myself found ourselves in a bit of a race to get to grips with the industrial scale kitchen equipment including the dishwasher, and setting up the tables and prepping the soup, bread, butter and cheese by the scheduled time of 1.30 p.m. Our thanks to those who were press ganged into service particularly Liz Forman for her help in the kitchen Once the food was ready Linda took on the role of head waiter delivering food orders with great efficiency and humour. Tables were cleared, reset and the AGM started at 2.30 p.m.

Walks :please check for any changes and updates on the Ramblers website and see March walks already scheduled.

WALK LEADERS NEEDED

What you will see from the above is that we could still do with more walks and walk leaders. Our Chair has recently taken on walk leading, and we would encourage you to do so too. Perhaps call and chat with him: 07817 640003 to see how to go about this. You will be supported sorting out and checking out a walk and then in leading with a back marker assigned to keep a watchful and supportive eye as you take your first steps.

NAVIGATION TRAINING

A date and venue still to be determined but this, an additional skill, and very useful skill, but not actually, in the time of sat navs , a pre-requisite for leading a walk.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Thursday 24 February:
Ten Pin Bowling at Tenpin, Eastbourne, Broadwater Way, BN22 9PZ.
Lanes have to be prebooked. So please advise Linda Bailey: 07766807396 by no later than 21 February if you wish to join in.
Cost: £7.55 for one, or £13.20 two games.
Food available at venue.

Further events under consideration and seeking dates:
Helen Gardens, Eastbourne: Picnic combined with Crazy golf and Petanque Helen Gardens

Boating at Barcombe Mills combined with walk

More details and other events will follow. If you have an idea that you would like to develop, please advise David Fry: dfry.architects@googlemail.com



43 were recorded as present and the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. The Acting Chair's report was worked through page by page and agreed. Peter Clinch, retiring Treasurer reported on a healthy bank balance, but highlighted reductions in income from Ramblers due to loss of income from holidays (we get a percentage), from per head fees plus a reduction in the fee received for our assistance at the Beachy Head Marathon caused by a reduction in numbers due to COVID. Peter was thanked for his seven years of service as Treasurer, and for being an unsung backbone of BHR for years and was presented with a photo record of many of those shared years and a gift token. Linda was presented with flowers for her year as Secretary. All officer posts were elected without contention with the post of newsletter editor changing only because Peter Slepokura has a lot on and Linda offered to take over the role.

It was noted that an Independent Examiner was required for the accounts and Malcolm Newman kindly agreed to continue in this role.

Our guest speakers gave interesting presentations. Malcolm McDonnell spoke about the work going on at both National and Regional level including the planned changes to the logo and to the website. He responded to concerns about the need for leaders to carry out risk assessments as a requirement of the insurers, the length of time these were to be held and how exactly this was managed. Frustration was expressed about the lack of clarity around this issue and I have written, as agreed, asking for further clarification.

The need for more volunteer walk leaders was emphasised and the training and support available highlighted. It is hoped to put on a further navigation programme (talk of March but nothing yet planned) with an added topic relating to the management of walks. Meanwhile. It was emphasised that help was available to those thinking they might put on a walk(s) ie. someone could go out with them to scout/research the route and someone could be on hand as back marker in support on walks which would hopefully make the undertaking feel a little less onerous.

It was reported that 40 of our membership still rely on non-electronic mail with all the associated printing, collating and postage costs that go with this. As these costs are now substantial it was agreed that consideration would need to be given to this matter and a solution be agreed before the next AGM.

The meeting ended with delicious tea and cakes and, agreed, that there should be gluten free food options available should the same or a similar format be adopted again.

FOOTPATH WARDENS

At the AGM the role, valuable contribution, and the importance of local footpath wardens was set out by Caroline Brown. Elaine (see above) is just such a warden and more are needed for the different areas. So, if you have some spare time, and would consider volunteering then do please email: eastfootpath@sussexramblers.org.uk marking this for the attention of Caroline, who will be able to discuss the role, work and where help is needed with you.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome Sue Jefferis who joined at the start of the year. We look forward to sharing walks and social events with you.

YOUR COMMITTEE

Chair: Andrew Scallan
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Secretary: Neil Parkinson
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Treasurer: Elaine Saunders
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Membership Secretary:
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Walks and Social Organiser:
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Lucie Thornycroft
lucieot@yahoo.co.uk
Newsletter Editor:
Linda Bailey
lindamindmatters@hotmail.com

NEXT ISSUE

In our next issue we hope to profile some of our walk leaders, i.e. those who are happy to be mentioned and highlight walking achievements and members ambitions for 2022. We hope that this will encourage you to also share your walking stories and plans and perhaps enable you to team up with others wanting to do the same or similar walks.

We also plan to update you on progress following our most recent meeting and on developments going on at a National level and any impacts on us.

DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE

The deadline for contributions to the next newsletter will be Monday 21 February. Publication date 28 February. Please send to: lindamindmatters@hotmail.com or phone/text Linda on: 07766807396
