

Newsletter of the Waveney & District Group of the Ramblers

Number 75: March 2018

Editorial

Welcome to our spring and early summer programme of walks. This is being written before Roger has all the walks settled but even now there are 42 walks organised by 14 leaders. Another excellent programme but clearly, we could do with a few more leaders please.

Please note the Waveney Ramblers Reunion Tea Party, on Saturday 10th March, when all are welcome. Also, it's great to see that David Harmer has a number of walks following the coastal path from Clacton to Mistley; around 50 miles in 10-mile stages. At this rate, by our 2020 spring programme, the walks will start with a flight to Humberside airport!

For those who were unable to make the AGM, Diana Covey, the group's Chair, has included her Address to that meeting in November in this Newsletter. In some previous years we have had a looming crisis over unfilled committee positions but regret that by this coming November the situation may be worse even though we have had two additional members join the committee (Alex McPherson as Vice Chair and Grant Walker as Committee Member). We need more members to get involved – please read her notes and volunteer, maybe as a committee member initially, as we will have a number of vacancies in key roles.

Tony Langford



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Message from the Chair, Diana Covey

I felt it worth including my address to the AGM, held in November 2017, as it is relevant to all members.

I have now completed one year as Chair and must thank the dedicated team who help keep the Waveney group functioning. This doesn't stop at the committee, but includes everybody who volunteers their time in any way. You know who you are, and if I start listing activities, or names, I shall miss something, or someone out, so again, thank you everybody.

My address to the AGM, this year, has been influenced by the sad loss of some of our long standing members, during the last twelve months, and also by meeting some of the founder members at the March reunion. These two factors set me searching through past minutes of AGMs.

The local group had its inaugural meeting on 15 March 1975, having held an initial meeting in February, where the decision was made to set up a group. There were two objectives, "functional" and "social". The functional objective was to be achieved through organised walks, with the intention of preserving and improving existing footpaths, requiring the participation of all members, either as an individual or ad hoc group. The aim for the social side was to hold monthly evening meetings, for talks, slide shows etc.

Gradually, through the years, a walk programme emerged and social events flourished. Today, both aspects are present, but with a different emphasis. It is interesting to note that, in a way, we have come full circle, as one thing the committee would like to re-introduce is at least one survey walk in each programme.

On my journey through history, I was struck that, somehow, we had managed to miss our 40th anniversary. Secondly, there were appearances of the same names over and over again, sometimes attached to different roles. Then a name would disappear, that person obviously considering they had done enough for the group, or were unable to continue for some reason. However, there was always somebody to step in and take on a new position, or indeed, to join the committee.

Moving to the present, through everybody's efforts and willingness to contribute to the group, I hope we will continue to flourish, at least for the next seven years, so we can celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2025.



Lunch-time at Walberswick



The ditch on Fritton & Boudicca Way walk



Wissett & St James



Mince pies plus on Woodton pre-Christmas walk



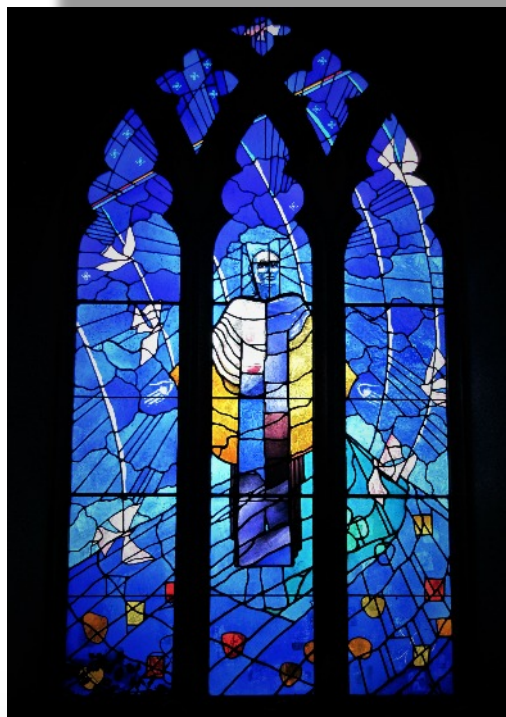
Billingford Area walk



Christmas Lunch Walk



January gales block Dunwich forest car park



Stunningly colourful window in Chillesford church

Learn from others' mistakes

Barry says I am the clumsiest person about, and this was proved true during a holiday in Dorset last June.

We were on our way to Hardy's Monument ('kiss me' Hardy) on a beautiful, sunny day, when we encountered a five-bar metal gate. I was in the lead and, whilst struggling with the bolt, Barry asked if I would like him to do it. How I wish I had taken up his offer, because the next moment the bolt slid, and the weight of the gate came crashing down on my right index finger. You don't want to know the gory details but, sufficient to say, first aid was applied and we retraced our steps to the bus-stop to catch the number 10 to Dorchester hospital A&E.

Twenty minutes after our arrival there, with finger attended to, we were eating our packed lunch in the park, before we changed our plans and walked to Hardy's Cottage (the other Hardy).

So why am I telling you this? Three reasons: firstly, I have learnt to take far more care when opening gates; secondly, I was so glad we carried an adequate first-aid kit; and thirdly, I was lucky I didn't lose the top of my finger.

I hope you can learn from my clumsiness.

Diana

Popular Walks

Over the past few years the number of members joining walks seems to have gradually crept up but sometimes we are all surprised by a sudden surge for a particular walk. Often this is because the weather has been poor just prior to the walk and the forecast for that day good, or the start is somewhere we have not visited for years, or particular weeks are not favoured by members for holidays, etc.

Anyway, maybe as a combination of the above, Richard Spencer's walk in November, starting in Fritton near Hempnall, attracted 39 walkers and we seemed to surround the large green with our cars. It was a very enjoyable walk, including the excitement of hurling members over a ditch – see photos. The nearby pub, the Kings Head at Woodton, having been advised that a dozen would be arriving for lunch coped admirably when nearly three times that turned up!

More Articles Please

Another plea from your editor, for contributions to this Newsletter. Anything even vaguely related to walking and/or the Ramblers would be greatly appreciated.

Lunch Stop Updates

The Wissett Plough – rumour has it that this pub will re-open after a significant refurbishment sometime in February or March. As this is the latest of many possible re-opening dates, don't hold your breath. However, it would be great when it does open, as the village car park is so useful as a start for several walks.

Shadingfield Fox – This lovely pub is now clearly a real ale 'destination' with up to 10 beers on tap. For those who like to combine real ales and walking (and not driving!), it should be noted that public transport to the Fox is not convenient for most. However, there are many circular walks that could start from Brampton station taking in the Fox en-route.

Can you help?

In November 2018, the Waveney group faces a challenge. Three of the four key posts are becoming vacant, and unless we get some new people stepping forward, the committee will cease to function. You may read the annual pleas, but take no action. Please, reconsider. There is time for you to be co-opted onto the committee now, so you can feel confident to step up next November.

At the moment, although there were no volunteers at the AGM, we are fortunate that the vacancy for vice-chair has since been filled.

Contributions for next edition of *The Waveney Rambler* should be sent, by **19th May, 2018**, to: Tony Langford, 16 Holton Road, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8HF (tel. 01986 875694) or email to: langfordajs@hotmail.com. Contributors please note that articles should not exceed 350 words, unless permission is given by the editor. **Relevant photos are invited.**