

# Newsletter of the Waveney & District Group of the Ramblers

Number 78: March 2019

## Editorial

Welcome to our Spring programme of walks. There is a lot of important and useful information contained in this Newsletter, so do please open and read it carefully.

Most details from the AGM in November are reported separately, including the new committee, but thanks go out to Pat Harrington for all his work as Treasurer and welcome to Zuhail Tobin who volunteered as our new Treasurer. Also, please see notes about the very popular coach walks – we need some members to volunteer to keep this going.

There are a number of new walks in the programme under the heading 'Waveney Way Walks', often on a Thursday, and form the first part of the plan to turn each section of the Waveney Way into a circular walk. Thanks to Neil, Diana and many others for pulling this together. Also, on Saturday May 11th, Lesley & Emma are leading a 'power walk' in the Beccles area for the really fit amongst us; 7 miles in under 2 hours with coffee/tea at the end.

Please note that Peter & Glenys are planning another walk for partially-sighted people on Thursday 6th June, in the Westleton Area. This will be the 19th run by Waveney Ramblers, which is some achievement! As usual, as many helpers as possible are welcome.

As many members are now able to access the internet, it is time to remind you all of the vast amount of information available on our website. Type [waveneyramblers.org.uk](http://waveneyramblers.org.uk) into your internet address bar and you will see an area map with all the next 8 days' walks highlighted, from which you can click through to details. If you click 'Walk Guides' at the top of the area map, a whole new world of possible walks is available.

*Tony Langford*



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## ***Too Close For Comfort (Never Again Please)***

An ex-Chair approached me after the AGM and said you could feel a collective sigh of relief in the room when you announced you had managed to find a Treasurer. We survived the possibility of dissolution of the Waveney Group thanks to a lady who at the time Tim and I spoke with her was not a Rambler. On behalf of Waveney Ramblers, I would like to say 'thank you and welcome' to Zuhal Tobin; and let us not forget Tim Sutton-Day, our Branch Secretary, who prior to our meeting with Zuhal had offered to take on the role if all else had failed. This was the second time within a year that Tim had stepped forward to ensure Waveney Ramblers 'survived' - thank you Tim.

At the AGM, I introduced the 30% principle and I would like to use the Newsletter to reach more of you on the subject. I very often hear the line that says: 'People pay their subs and it is up to them what they want to do. If they just want to walk without getting involved that is up to them.' That's OK but that only works when at least 3 out of every 10 members are prepared to get involved and volunteer for the committee or become walk leaders. Right now the ratio is less than 3 and unless we get back to 3 or more in every 10 (30%) of the membership, there will be negative consequences. Being a few weeks away from dissolution of the Group would have been a direct consequence of members doing nothing in the hope that someone else will. The choice going forward is yours. Do something and you will lose nothing. Do nothing and you might lose everything. It is really that simple.

Volunteering aside, where does Waveney need to develop? We need to continue to move towards the Internet. An interesting point I picked up from a recent visit to Bletchley Park which, as well as its WW2 code-breaking history, is today a portal into the information age in which we live: 'INTERNET DEVICES WILL OUTNUMBER THE WORLD'S POPULATION BY NEXT YEAR (2020). IT HAS BEEN FORECAST THAT THERE WILL BE OVER 20 BILLION DEVICES IN USE AGAINST A WORLD POPULATION OF 9.7 BILLION.'

From that figure you can see where the internet will continue to impact on all our lives in more and more ways. Like volunteering, the internet is the second elephant in the room for Waveney Ramblers and it cannot be avoided. You can of course choose not to participate. Maybe you don't feel confident on-line. If that is the reason, it can be overcome. There are Waveney Ramblers who were not even on the internet a year ago who are now on the Closed Waveney Facebook site. For Waveney Ramblers to survive, the use of the internet will be paramount. Actually around 85% of you are on the internet; that in itself is a remarkable figure. It would be a positive step forward if more of you subscribed to the Closed Waveney Facebook site. You are discovering for yourselves that THE INTERNET IS A SERVANT AND NOT A MASTER.

The only people who can make things happen in Waveney are you the members. You need to volunteer. The future is there but you have to be prepared to get involved and offer your services. We came very close to not having a Waveney Ramblers Group. We might not be as fortunate if there is a next time.

*Alex McPherson - Chair Waveney Ramblers*



***Information stop on Historic Hoxne walk***



***Eye and Thorndon walk***





***Newbourne and Waldringfield Walk***



***Christmas Lunch***



***Southwold Walk***

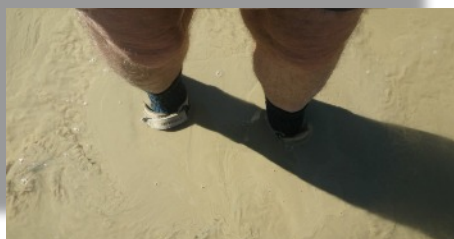


***Mince Pies and Mulled Wine Stop***





***Nice turnout at Billingsford***



***... it had to happen in muddy Cyprus!***



***... is this the real Santa ?***

## **Volunteers Required for Coach Trip (Walk)**

As I mentioned at the AGM, the Group needs Volunteers to step forward and organise events. A regular feature for many years has been the Coach Trip (Walk) and I would like to take the opportunity to ask if there are any Volunteers prepared to organise a Coach Trip this year. If no volunteers are prepared to organise the event, it will not happen. If there are any volunteers who would like to organise the event, please contact me on 01502 580868 or by e-mail at [agmcperson1947@gmail.com](mailto:agmcperson1947@gmail.com) - Thank you.

## **Information On-Line - AGM Minutes**

Please note that an edited (names removed) on-line version of the 2018 AGM is available on the Waveney Ramblers.org site. This meets the requirement of making the minutes available to the membership. By adopting this format, we can remove the need for the previous minutes to be read out at the AGM. All that will be necessary is for a Motion to be moved and put to the vote, and then move on to Matters Arising from the Minutes; thereby, removing the need for the previous minutes to be 'Read Aloud' at the Meeting, which is time-consuming and, probably, a boring process.

Should you wish to view the unedited version, please contact Branch Secretary Tim Sutton-Day, or myself, and an e-mail edition or hard copy (pre-paid stamp addressed envelope required for the latter) will be provided.

*Alex*

## **New Format Tea Party**

A New Format Tea Party will be held this year at the Uplands Community Centre, Carlton Colville, on Saturday May 18th. The Event is now in its 6th year. However, the format has been changed again. In its original format it was an event for members who no longer walked with the Group but continued to pay a subscription to The Ramblers. It then changed to an open to all Group members event. This year the format has changed to an event open to all Waveney Ramblers past and present and their guests. The event will be organised by Roger Moore and David Harmer.

*Alex*

## **Beccles Southern Relief Road**

The new bypass is open. This alters a handful of walks south of Beccles. Our walking guide books have been updated to reflect the changes. The guides for Beccles and the Waveney Way have been updated. See Open Street Map:

<https://www.openstreetmap.org/#map=16/52.4388/1.5769>

At the time of writing, Google and Bing/Ordnance Survey had not included the new road. The footpath changes are quite minor, so old routes and walking instructions can still be used. There are some new gates and road crossings to negotiate. The changes can be seen here:

[http://waveneyramblers.org.uk/walks/bing/2018-10-19\\_BSRR\\_4.5.kml](http://waveneyramblers.org.uk/walks/bing/2018-10-19_BSRR_4.5.kml)

## Walk Leaders' Courses

Peter Westmacott has held two very successful Walk Leaders' Courses in the past month. Six people attended the December meeting and eight the one in January. Participants explored four key issues: where you can walk (not always obvious), how to read an Explorer map and plan a short walk from it, simple measuring techniques and lastly a consideration of the various factors involved in planning and leading a walk.

This was followed by an exercise that entailed devising a 5-mile walk from a local village and then considering any potential problems that the walk might present. Some time was spent examining the different types of Rights of Way, other types of path with public access, permissive paths, Forestry Commission land and Open Access. Brief mention was given to access provided by Countryside Stewardship Schemes, something we don't always make adequate use of in our walks.

Members felt the 2-hour session was interesting and worthwhile, and some expressed an interest in pursuing a follow-up course.

Another Walk Leaders' Course has been arranged for Tuesday 26th February, at Quaker Meeting House (downstairs room), from 10 am to 12 noon. There are three remaining places available. Details from Peter on 01502 716387 or 07982 779049 (text) or email [glen63@live.co.uk](mailto:glen63@live.co.uk)

## Facebook Group - February Update

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WaveneyRamblers/>

We're up to 21 members and there are new posts most days. Some really nice photos have been posted. As it's a "closed" group, there have been no "nasties" that you hear about in the news. Facebook is safe enough, especially if you disclose minimal personal information.

The group opens up some new opportunities. For example we could run "walks at short notice". When walk leaders pre-walk a route to check it out, they could announce when they plan to do this. Perhaps a rambler or two might join them. If there are walk alterations or cancellations, email and Facebook are the obvious places to make the announcement.

There is some discussion over how "closed" the group should be. When Neil set it up, he assumed it would be for members of Ramblers who walk with or intend to walk with the Waveney Group. At some point this changed to members of Waveney Ramblers only, a slightly smaller group. This excludes regular guest walkers from the Norwich and Great Yarmouth groups who would also need to hear about cancellations and alterations. In my opinion, it would be safe to relax the rule slightly and that would be the inclusive and friendly thing to do. I'd be a bit miffed if I were excluded from information from our partner groups in Norfolk and Suffolk. Perhaps you could think about this and let the committee know your views. I could even set up a referendum "Oh no, not another one!" using the Facebook Group. — Neil

**Contributions** for next edition of *The Waveney Rambler* should be sent, by **20th May, 2019**, to: Tony Langford, 16 Holton Road, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8HF (tel. 01986 875694) or email to: [langfordajs@hotmail.com](mailto:langfordajs@hotmail.com). Contributors please note that articles should not exceed 350 words, unless permission is given by the editor. **Relevant photos are invited.**