

Newsletter of the Waveney & District Group of the Ramblers

Number 83: November 2020

Editorial

*W*aving had such a strange six months or so, it is difficult to be too upbeat about the next four-month programme except to say that we do have quite a number of walk leaders still putting forward walks for us to enjoy.

So, thank you to those walk leaders and to Roger for keeping up the pressure on them! Some members might feel a little short-changed when those leaders limit numbers but we have to remember that they may have vulnerable people at home or are just concerned about the safety of the group when it gets too large. As this is being written at the moment that covid-19 cases are rapidly rising, everything may change if there are new restrictive government rules.

The other thing that makes this such a strange editorial to compose is the dramatic changes facing our group with two couples who have had such an important influence on the group and its direction over the years deciding to leave the area.

We will seriously miss both Mary & Parvez Shaheen and Diana & Barry Covey. See inside for articles and details.

The loss of both these couples leaves a large void in Waveney Ramblers that will be hard to fill but fill it we must try. Without volunteers for at least Chair and Secretary we will have a major problem maintaining the group so, even if you have not considered taking on one of these roles, please think again. See inside for more details.

Well, that was the most downbeat introduction to the programme I have ever written!

Looking ahead to the programme after this one, maybe a vaccine will be around by then and all restrictive rules relaxed. That will enable us to get back to the way we used to enjoy great Rambler's walks. Just wanted to end on a positive note.

Tony Langford



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Why Can we still walk as a group?

With apologies to any Covid deniers, conspiracy theorists and anyone else from the planet Zog, herewith a few notes on why we can still walk as a group without fines and how to maintain this special exemption.

The Ramblers is a charity which, for whatever reason, puts us in a different category. This together with the outside nature of our activity, the experts desire for us all to keep fit and the assumption that we will be led in a Covid-secure manner means we get the exemption.

The last point is the key. Do please bear with your walk leader who will go through a number of points/actions designed to remind you how to minimise risk whilst walking as a group. If groups are seen to ignore risk assessments and social distancing we could, feasibly, lose our exemption. As someone who felt many Health & Safety rules in the past were well over the top and mostly common sense, I am surprising myself by writing this!

However, let's not lose our exemption to the 'rule of six' by ignoring the social distancing and other guidelines and remember that we need to be seen to be doing the right thing as well as doing it.

Tony

Mary and Parvez Shaheen

Many of us were sorry to see Mary and Parvez, long-time members of Waveney, moved on to pastures new in July, to settle in their new home in Cromer. They will be missed in so many ways. Not only had they both held various posts on the Committee over a number of years, but they had also organised numerous Group holidays. Among the roles they took on were Chair and Secretary, which they carried out with great enthusiasm and professionalism. I would suspect that, between them, they served on the Committee for over ten years; no mean feat.

When Gerald Jenkins, a grand organiser of overseas holidays, was unable to complete one year's arrangements, who else to volunteer to step in but Mary and Parvez, which they did so, seamlessly. This is who they are; a generous couple, always prepared to share the work. I'm sure you will join me in wishing them all the best in their new adventure North.

Diana

Pubs Update

Years ago, you would normally expect to see in this Newsletter a review of a couple of local pubs, suitable for Ramblers. As so many were closing or changing landlords so frequently, it was hard to keep up; as it is still.

However, there are a couple worth noting now. **The Plough at Wissett** has a new young team with new landlord offering sound, perhaps top-end, pub grub at reasonable prices. Good welcome and also spaced tables. Like the Plough, **The Racehorse at Westhall** offers a couple of real ales but the menu is very limited and incredibly cheap! Worth supporting for many reasons but particularly as it is a community pub manned by volunteers.

Diana & Barry Covey

You may know by now that Diana and Barry are moving away from the area to Wiltshire sometime over the coming months. They have been very active committee members for over 5 years now and are currently Chair and Secretary as well as leading regular walks and, not forgetting, those great walking holidays.

Many members will have fond memories of those holidays varying from Derbyshire to the Isle of Wight via Rye and Wiltshire. Unfortunately, this year's holiday had to be postponed due to covid-19 and, hopefully, will take place next year.

On behalf of the membership, I would like to thank them for their considerable contribution to Waveney Ramblers and, in particular, for leading us through the current year's difficulties.

Our loss will be Wiltshire's gain!

Dorothy Lowe

In the summer, a very generous gift of £100 was received by Waveney Ramblers from long-serving member Dorothy Lowe. Dorothy's gift was prompted by her decision to terminate her Ramblers membership and I feel this demonstrates her enthusiasm for the organisation. Both she and her late husband, Peter, had been members for many years. When Barry and I joined the group, some twenty-plus years ago, we remember walking with them, as will some others of you. Indeed, they were both among the founder members of Waveney Ramblers nearly forty years ago.

The Committee felt such a gift deserved spending on something tangible and have decided upon a variety of hand tools for path clearance and maintenance. I have already passed on my thanks to Dorothy, on behalf of the group, and promised to let her know how the money will be spent. Tony and Dorothy are close neighbours, so if any member wants to pass on a personal message to her, I'm sure he would oblige.

Diana

AGM - Thursday 19th November, 2020

As you are very probably aware, this year, due to the pandemic, the AGM will be held online via Zoom. A full explanation of arrangements is contained in the enclosed AGM notes.

So, no turning out on a damp, foggy evening, but settle down in front of a warm fire and your laptop, iPad or phone, perhaps even in the company of a fellow member who is unable to join Zoom themselves, for what I hope will be a short and productive meeting.

A glance at the Agenda will reflect the otherwise normality of the meeting, but please be aware that **the two vital posts of Chair and Secretary are vacant, for which nominations would be greatly appreciated.**

Oh, and at the end, I would like to toast everybody's good health, so perhaps you might like to have a wee something at hand to join in.

Hopefully, I'll see you there.

Diana Covey (Chair)



First walk after lockdown - at Upton with Fishley



Debbie's first walk as leader, socially-distanced at Mutford

Malvern's
and mum, Eileen,
celebrating his
60th birthday



Lynn's and Chris's
Wedding



Socially-distanced lunch stop on Sandlings Way



Gales bring down branches onto river path at Worlingham



South Walsham Broad



Iken Walk in September



Piglets on Iken walk checking our social distancing



Norma on 2006 Lake District backpack

Norma Sayer 1936-2020

It is with sadness that I have to tell you that Norma passed away on the 14th August, at the age of 86. She was an active member of Waveney Ramblers for many decades.

When I first met her, I was in awe of the way she managed to walk all day and still have plenty of energy left over to party afterwards.

She went on several back-packing and week-long walking holidays organised by other Waveney members. This resulted in her walking a great many of the well-known long-distance footpaths, some with Waveney Ramblers and others with friends.

Norma also enjoyed several Ramblers Holidays, one of them being around the world, meeting other Ramblers from across the UK, some of whom she kept in contact with.

She joined me on my Footpath Surveys when we would inevitably get lost, and also helped me (with Linda) recce a holiday in Dorset

Norma was an avid reader, enjoyed classical music and researching her Family Tree but most of all she enjoyed her walking and I'm sure many of you will, like me, share happy memories of our many escapades with her.

Maggie Goffin

Contributions for next edition of *The Waveney Rambler* should be sent, by **20th Jan, 2021**, to:
Tony or email to:

. Contributors please note that articles should not exceed **350 words**, unless permission is given by the editor. **Relevant photos are always welcome.**