

Sunday Minibus Service.

Coventry CHA Rambling Club has had a very successful Centenary Year, and we are currently fortunate enough to have a strong and varied membership. However, this also means that we have a wide variety of walking abilities in the Club, which can make it difficult to have a "one size fits all" Sunday walking program that caters for both stronger walkers, and those looking for less strenuous rambles.

Your Committee have been looking at ways to address this, and at the AGM it was agreed to trial a series of "once-a-month" A+ walks, still held on a Sunday, but involving a smaller party using a hired minibus. To address the health and safety aspects of such a venture, Paul Wood and John Osborne have been sent on appropriate training, consisting of a half-day general theory session, followed by both a multiple choice written test and an on-road assessment of their driving. Both have passed.

It is intended that A+ walks will leave from White Street Car Park, at the slightly earlier time of 8 a.m. This will allow us to go further afield, whilst leaving time for longer walks.

The walks will be more strenuous than our usual Sunday outings, either by covering greater mileage and/or by virtue of steeper climbs to greater heights. However, we know that many Club members are easily able to achieve this – witness the successful ascent of Snowdon on the Club's recent Swallow Falls YHA weekend!

Walkers should bring a picnic lunch, as walks will not be based on having a lunchtime pub stop – instead, we should be up high admiring the views!

As far as is possible, the running of A+ walks will mirror our coach walk administration. For instance, costs will be £8, £9, or £10, depending on distance travelled. Bookings need to be cancelled by 6 p.m. on the Monday preceding, to ensure that payment is not required.

A sheet will circulate for booking each A+ walk, or walkers can telephone John Osborne on 02476 418689. Note that minibus rules restrict us to a maximum of 1 driver and 16 passengers.

Provided there are no conflicts with other club activities such as YHA weekends, or holidays, it is proposed to have A+ walks on the first Sunday of every month, commencing February, for an initial trial period of 4 months.

Any Suggestions?

Your committee is now considering venues for the 2012 annual outing, and would welcome any suggestions.

The first walk will be led by Paul Wood on Sunday 5th February, up into the Shropshire Hills east of Church Stretton, to include the summits of The Lawley and Caer Caradoc Hill; a distance of about 10.5 miles, but a steep ascent to about 1500 feet.

Please join us to make this another successful Club venture!

John Osborne

A Word of Thanks

Dave and Joyce Thomas thank everyone who supported the day of social activities in Saint Mary's church hall on 5th October 2011 .

Winter Walking Preparation

Always hoping that the remaining winter months will not be too harsh, can I remind members to prepare for a comfortable and safe day of walking? For bodily warmth, a system of layering several thin items of clothing creates several insulating layers of warmer air, and is more effective than one single thick layer.

When selecting footwear in inclement weather, remember that boots with a deep depth of sole tread will improve grip and provide ankle support. Don't forget to carry items of spare clothing such as waterproof items, a hat, gloves, and a spare jersey in case the weather suddenly changes.

Finally, carry a whistle, a hot drink, energy snacks, any personal first-aid requirements, and your yellow medical form as issued by the club. This final item should always be carried on your walks, winter or summer.

Angela Cottrell - President

RIP Turkey 2012

Richard Satchwell has confirmed with regret that due to organisational difficulties the proposed 2012 holiday in Turkey has been postponed. As winter flights would have increased costs to an excessive level, this holiday has now been rescheduled for spring 2013.

... His Last Word

Well, there it is, - finally put to bed and sleeping peacefully. Surely the offers from Fleet Street will now come flooding in.

On behalf of all members, this is an opportunity to express thanks to everyone involved in organising a successful programme of activities in celebration of the club's centenary year.

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CHA Coventry Rambling Club

Newsletter February 2012



Editor's Pennyworth . . .

Astute members will have realised that the news letter has reverted to its previous A4 format. The previous and impressive publication, on quality paper and with coloured photographs, was a celebration of the club's centenary year. The new format does however permit news to be issued more quickly and at a more economical cost.

Having been approached by the committee and asked to maintain the high professional standard set by Sue Newton, I was immediately enthused with thoughts of Page 3 girls, DIY archaeological articles, and a tasteful selection from my collection of steam railway photographs. These intentions were dashed by later confirmation that your committee would control the content. Deep sigh.

Most editors are appointed; in my case it seems that I was adopted - so as a family member may I wish everyone happy rambling and comfortable boots.

On with the motley . .

2011 Club Centenary Celebrations

Following in the footsteps of kings and cardinals the 2011 celebrations kicked off when 120 members attended a grand dinner in the historical setting of St Mary's Hall in January. Principal guests included the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress plus Pru Poretta, Coventry's own Lady Godiva. Alish Henderson, Rambling Secretary in the 1960s was present; Angela Cottrell and Tom Lovell represented the longest/oldest serving active members, together with past and present committee members. Speeches touched on memories of the past, joys of the present, and hopes of many good times to come.

St Austell in Cornwall was the setting for a great January holiday. For its comfort, warmth, good food, and friendly staff the Cliff Head Hotel was one of the best. Blue skies most of the time, with walks suitable for most capabilities. Fowey, Mevagissey, Polperro, and Looe were some of the quaint fishing villages that were explored, while the Eden Project kept interest going on the 'off' day. Evening activities included gala dinner frivolities, auctions, raffles, and jiggling. Talent shows proved that a mere hat, wig, fairy wings or silly frilly costume made sane men and women lose all inhibitions.

In May, another great holiday to Rovinj in Croatia. After hassle-free flights another green and pleasant land was discovered. The Park Hotel, set in pine woods and opposite a swanky yachting marina was hard to fault. Rovinj, poised on a peninsula and once a separate island, had managed to preserve its character between medieval town and tourist resort. Pleasant easy coastal walks were never far from small bars and an azure blue sea. Most of the excursions, whether walking, sailing, or coaching, were arranged by an excellent courier.

Bustling historical towns mixed with quiet villages perched on hilltops. On one day on lower rural lush pastures, a farming family welcomed everyone to their homestead. A home made lunch was included, offering aperitif juices, broth, pasta, and dinky doughnuts, alongside the most wonderful bread, and the wine flowed.

On the 'off' day some risked a visit to Venice the same day as the Pope; or a long trek to the Plitvice Lakes. In previous times some of the Brijuni Islands down the coast had only been accessible to the elite such as Tito, royalty, and celebrities in their search for seclusion. For club members, Red Isle by boat was a little bit of paradise.

In July, more than 80 members travelled by vintage charabanc or double decker bus to the Black Country Museum. Period costume was optional – but what an amazing response! Scullery maids mixed with ladies of the manor; surrounded by lords and lads in top hats, straw boaters and caps. The premises of chemist, draper, pawnbroker and smithy all lay along the village street, between adjacent small gas-lit houses.

A tour of a coal mine was available; as was 'legging' through Dudley Canal tunnel, or enjoying a mad helter skelter in the fairground. Sitting in the Limelight Cinema watching a dizzy film at least provided some rest before a fish and chip supper in the Worker's Institute finished the day nicely.

Did You Know?

Home-made marmalade of the most excellent quality is available from club member Hazel Hancock at the very reasonable cost of £1 per jar. Truly an Epicurean delight. All proceeds are given to CHA club funds.

