

Coventry CHA Rambling Club

Newsletter December 2017



Sunday Rambles - Important Notice

The Club is very pleased that Ann Bottrill has been elected as the new Coach Booking Secretary. Ann requests people do not ring her before 9 am and after 9 pm. If the call is not answered please leave a message on voice mail and Ann will get back to you. All calls and text will be acknowledged.

The Club has purchased a new mobile phone with a new number, and from **December 1st** this should be used when ringing or texting Ann to reserve or cancel seats on the Sunday ramble coach.

This number will appear on the rambles card under the heading "Coach Bookings & Cancellations".

Mobile Number 07950 363203

If the call is not answered please leave a message on voice mail and Ann will get back to you. All calls and text will be acknowledged. Please do not ring Ann on her home landline number for Club business.

All committee members wish to express appreciation for the valued support given to the club by Ben and Brenda Matthias who performed this service for many years.

Brian Keates

Committee Membership

The newly elected committee for 2018 shows four changes, which is probably the sign of a healthy club. A warm welcome then to Deborah, Frank and Terry - and particularly so to our former President Mike.

Dave Thomas	- <i>President & Chairman</i>
Brian Keates	- <i>Secretary</i>
Richard Satchwell	- <i>Treasurer</i>
Alan Whitcroft	- <i>Rambles Secretary</i>
Jean Bocoock	Frank Dunn
Deborah Brown	Hazel Hancock
Peter Button	Michael Ledbrook
Angela Cottrell	Neville Russell
John Cottrell	Terry Stamper

Devon Holiday 21-26 January 2018

The holiday in Dawlish Warren is fast approaching, and some details of the planned itinerary can be released, although are subject to possible change. Please note that costings did not include any tips or gratuities - these being entirely at your discretion.

We will travel in two single-deck coaches provided by Swift Valley. These commence loading in Fairfax Street at 0815, with departure at 0900. There will of course be convenience stops as necessary along the journey.

On Monday we travel for our first excursion to the market town of Chagford, known as the Jewel of Dartmoor. All three available walks will start from Easton Bridge, in distances of 8, 5, and 3 miles. Non walkers will spend the day in Chagford. After dinner entertainment will be provided by Matthew Rock, singer and keyboard player.

Our destination on Tuesday is the seaside town of Sidmouth, on the Kingsbridge Estuary. Walks of 5 and 3 miles will start from East Budleigh and follow separate paths into Sidmouth; the 8 miles walk will follow a path from Budleigh Salterton to Sidmouth. Non walkers can spend time in Budleigh Salterton before rejoining the coach for Sidmouth. Evening entertainment will be provided by Terry Quinney and his saxophone.

The Wednesday walks of 7, 5, and 3 miles will all start from Malborough and follow different routes into the historic port of Salcombe to join the non walkers. The singer Victoria Starr will entertain after dinner and has been highly recommended.

Thursday offers walks of only 5 and 3 miles to allow drivers a rest period before the return journey the next day..

The 5 mile walkers will be taken into Teignmouth and the 3 mile walkers will be dropped at Holcombe; both parties returning to the hotel along the coastal path. Non walkers may return to the hotel at leisure before using the local bus service or taking a train ride along the picturesque and famous coastal line. After dinner Les Martin will play his guitar and sing songs from the 60s and 70s.

Brian Keates
Alan Whitcroft.

German Holiday Report

The overseas holiday for 2017 began with a flight from Birmingham to Frankfurt-Main on Sunday 24 September, and transfer to two luxury coaches for the 90 minutes journey to Boppard and the Hotel L'Europe in the Rhine Valley.

This trip passed pleasantly as we were entertained along the route by local guides, pointing out local landmarks and snippets of history. At the hotel we were welcomed with a complementary drink before settling into our allocated rooms and preparing for the evening meal.

After dinner many found the energy to stroll into Boppard, which was surprisingly quiet for a wine-fest town, until we remembered that we had arrived on a Sunday. On three days of the holiday all travellers had the option of joining a *tourist* coach to see the sights, or a *walking* coach to be taken to the starting points. It was my pleasure to act as leader for each of the three designated walks.

Monday 25 September

The touring group was treated with a visit to the Mosel Valley, while the walkers enjoyed a climb over the Hunsrück on a 7.5 miles walk through a forest and a stone age burial ground, before descending through vineyards with stunning views of the Mosel.

We passed the ruins of Burg Metternich, to reach the picture postcard town of Beilstein, where a cunning plan had left time for a moderate libation and supplies of food before being whisked back to Boppard.

Tuesday 26 September

This was a free day, and most of the participants braved gravity and fears to be transported in almost total silence to the GedeonsEck via a chair lift. As it was very misty when we arrived, many people were able to fortify themselves with an *apfelstrudel* or *apfelkuchen* while waiting for the mist to lift.

They were rewarded with stunning views of Boppard and the Rhine, before electing to potter about, take the chair lift and return, or accompany me on a 3.5 miles circular walk through woods before returning.

Wednesday 27 September

Dawn arrived a little early for those who had decided to sample the delights of the wine fest in nearby Boppard, but by 1000 hours the *tourist* coach was ready to take them to the delightful town of Cochen, on the Mosel.

The *walking* coach serviced the most strenuous of our walkers, and delivered us to the little town of Treis-Karden, where a 7 miles hike began by climbing straight up rocks to a plateau on the Eifel. By good luck and a little foresight a shorter alternative had also been prepared, allowing less energetic climbers to visit Burg Eltz Castle - the highlight of the walk.

All walkers met at Burg Eltz and walked the 3 miles down to the town of Moselkern. We were 50 yards from the end of the path, almost at journey's end, when disaster struck! Your intrepid walk leader (*ahem*), slipped and damaged his left wrist.

We managed reach the pub and hence some liquid anaesthetic, with almost an hour before the coach would collect us. On reaching the hotel, having been advised to get the wrist checked out, Alan Whitcroft gallantly accompanied me to the hospital in Boppard, where after an x-ray the wrist was pronounced *kaput* and swiftly immobilised. We were still both back in time for dinner – *take note Walsgrave!*

Thursday 28 September

Another free day, and nearly all of us enjoyed a boat trip to Koblenz, whence we were whisked in a cable car across the Rhine to the historic Ehrenbreitstein fortress overlooking the city. After touring the fortress many of us then had lunch in the battery café before catching the boat back to Boppard. Some of us ate in the town and some on the boat, but the hotel kindly kept a late dinner for those who did not wish to break their journey in the fleshpots of Boppard.

Friday 29 September

Our last scheduled day of walking had been planned as an easy 5 miles around the volcanic lake of Laacher See, ending in the Benedictine Monastery of Maria Laach. The *touring* coach had intended to visit Maria Laach on the way to Ahrweiler and the wine growing valley - but both coaches arrived to find a road blockage on the chosen route around the lake.

The tourists therefore took a 30 minutes detour to reach the main car park while the walking party was reorganised by Richard Satchwell. The walkers able to eat and drink at the Blockhaus Restaurant before joining the tourists at the main car park, with its many attractions - the monastery, a garden centre, a café, and a bookshop.

Saturday 30 September

Saturday dawned with a hint of the first rain of the week. Some people took the Hunsruck Express to Emmelshausen, and on their return the rain had arrived. Fortunately this cleared for the finale of the wine fest – the evening firework display.

We were not to be disappointed, and were treated to a continuous 20 minutes of spectacular fireworks, viewed from our position on the quayside, looking over the Rhine.

During the week Richard Satchwell also organised several additional walks, which the more serious walkers very much appreciated.

Doug Shelton



*“ A welcome break in the hills above Boppard”
GedeonsEck, Germany Holiday September 2017 [Photo: Jeanie Johnston]*

German Holiday

During the holiday week, by agreement with the organisers, several supplementary walks were arranged.

Tuesday 26 September

During the visit to GedeonsEck a small party elected to take a longer 7 miles walk through forested and rolling arable countryside with Julian Denny as leader.

Friday 29 September

This was a 7 miles walk around Laacher See, traversing the forested banks of the volcanic crater, with Richard Satchwell as leader. An interesting ramble with the sunshine dappled through the trees.

Highlights included a lookout tower which had been built to an Imperial Roman design, and a tracked forestry machine which pulled trees from the ground and trimmed off all branches and leafage, before cutting the trunks to a uniform length – all under the control of a single operator.

Saturday 30 September

The final walk of the holiday was a 7 miles circuit starting from the hotel and heading south to Bad Salzig; again with Richard leading. Lunch was taken at the famous viewpoint of Putzblick, the route meandering through a nature reserve and around a number of valleys before returning to Boppard.

Richard Satchwell

Overseas Holiday September 2018

All club members who participated in the successful recent holiday in Germany were invited to select the destination for next year’s holiday from a list of three options. The winning selection was ... *[drum roll, pregnant pause]* ... Rovinj in Croatia.

Our dedicated team of international agents has now commenced detailed research, and early results are looking very favourable.

All members who may be interested in joining us on yet another foray along the Adriatic sea coast should complete the enclosed application form and return it to me before Christmas. This will allow me to send further details of the holiday directly to interested members, without any obligation.

Alan Whitcroft

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Email: alan.awhitcroft@btinternet

*“The Trossachs”
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Aldermans Green
Coventry CV2 1NR*





*“Look Ma - Top of the World!”
‘A’ Walkers at Froggatt Edge, August 2017 [Photo: Brian Keates]*

Attendance Figures 2017

Each section of the Club continued to return healthy attendance figures during the past year. The Sunday coach walk, with a restriction on numbers, remained very popular with a regular waiting list most weeks, although the demand failed to be satisfied on only ten occasions.

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number of Walks</i>	<i>Average Attendance</i>
Sunday	45	49
Saturday	49	23
Thursday	23	18
Sunset	17	28

Brian Keates

Eastbourne Weekend 2018

A weekend of walking has been organised in the Eastbourne area from Friday 13 April to Sunday 15 April. The estimated cost for shared accommodation is £119, and £135 for a single.

An application form giving further details can be found enclosed with the newsletter, and an early reply would be appreciated from interested parties so that final arrangements can be made. Completed forms should be submitted by 13 December.

Richard Price

Guidance for New Leaders

Firstly, you don't have to lead alone! Feel free to get together with others, friends, partners etc. This is also a good safeguard in case of illness or mishap on the day, as well.

For Sunday Rambles you should involve at least one other person, as there are normally two walks that need to be planned and therefore two leaders who need to be familiar with the routes before they are walked by the club. Once you have a destination, a rough idea of the route, walking distance and start time, please supply these details and agree a date with the rambles secretary, so that it can be put into the walks programme.

You may prefer to use or adapt a walk from a walks magazine or book - try a local library if you don't have a book yourself - or even use one of the many routes available online. Or you could design your own route based on public footpaths as shown on maps. A range of OS maps are available in libraries and the Rambles Secretary also has certain maps for loan. Microsoft's Bing Maps is one of a number of mapping facilities available online with 1:25000 mapping.

Vacancy

The Club is seeking a new editor for its newsletter. Any member interested in this position can obtain further details by contacting the Club Secretary.

Brian Keates