



Coventry CHA Rambling Club Newsletter March 2022



Neville's last walk as Thursday rambles organiser.

Neville bows out

The last Thursday walk last year was led by Neville around Baginton on 2nd December with 25 followers. We all had a lovely Christmas meal at the Baginton Oak pub and wished each other a Happy Christmas, but the highlight was a thank you speech by Malcolm Smith to thank Neville for his leadership and organisation of the Thursday rambles and we presented him with a photo and hamper and Malcolm concluded with this poem

Ode to the Thursday ramblers

Rambling is a healthy jaunt
We meet at most West Midlands haunts
We rendezvous at a pub
And amble along fields woods and scrub

Continued over leaf

On Thursday ramblers we meet our Neville
Who takes a register and with each name , is never bedevilled !
He is the CHA Thursday organiser
And the walker's adviser; with maps compass and first aid kit

In 46 years he has walked and led the troops
With hat on , famous stick and walking boots
Good fun is had when the sun is shining and we are all singing
But alas the rain and sleet have on occasions left Neville wringing !!

Rambling is a good way to meet new folk
We natter and chat until we nearly choke
Ramblers are a hearty lot and the kindest of folk
Who enjoy many a joke !

Neville oft shows his humorous side
When he dresses in a country bumpkin smock !
Appearing from an unknown spot
To show us his thespian skills
By quoting a poem which he relishes and tells

The poem he regales has its drama
Neville depicts the panorama
Of a maiden : young and with beauty
Whose courtship leaves her moody
Her suitor fails to win her heart; left broken hearted and a looney!!

At the end of the ramble we eat tougher
Sometimes Bob joins us - Neville's brother
Neville is a teetotaller but has preference for fish dish
With a rich sauce and vegetables Neville enjoys this culinary bliss !

So today we eat together
And thank Neville beyond measure
For his time and service

So let's raise a glass
To our Neville ... who is first class!!!

Angela Whelan

Safeguarding young people

The committee have been discussing long and hard the issue of the laws surrounding the safeguarding of young people and how we would need to implement protocols to comply with this legislation, should anyone under 18 years of age wish to join our club. The laws regarding safeguarding are quite complex, the committee has looked through these and the guidance



notes available and has decided to err on the side of caution, not wishing to put the club, it's members or any future members in a position where we may fall foul of this legislation, so it is with a heavy heart that we will no longer be accepting applications for membership from anyone under the age of 18. Our membership application form has been amended to reflect this and we currently do not have any under 18's as club members.

Annual outing 2022

We didn't make it to Bristol in 2021, so we are resurrecting our planned day out there this year. The new date is Saturday 2nd July, and the trip will be as before to the Clifton Suspension Bridge and Bristol Docks. Firstly, we will stop for a couple of hours by the suspension bridge. This should give you enough time to visit the bridge and its dedicated museum. There are nearby cafes, hotels and toilets. From there you will have a choice to make, take the coach down to the docks if you want more time to explore Bristol, or you can follow Brian Keates on a 3 mile walk from the bridge to the docks, taking in Clifton's classical Georgian architecture, Birdcage Walk and Cabot Tower. Bristol is a lively city with lots of independent shops and a thriving arts scene; there is also a Cathedral, Art Galleries, and the SS Great Britain. Depart Coventry 8.00am. We will take everyone who wants to go, but if you put your name down to go and subsequently cancel you will still have to pay the full fare

Coffee mornings



Last year's coffee mornings proved to be a great success and once again we are looking for any club members who would be interested in hosting a coffee morning at their homes for charity this year. If you are interested, please contact Terry Stamper on 07940 544606 who will be acting as coordinator, the charge this year would be £3 per head. Let him know your preferred time, date and the details of the charity that will be receiving any profits made, this can be one or all of the three club charities or one that is close to your own heart.

Barn Dance 2022

The Barn Dance at the Hare and Hounds, in Watery Lane, was well attended with 61 tickets sold. This is the first time we have been to this venue; we found the function room to be of a suitable size and there were plenty of car parking spaces. The only bugbear was the buffet, the food was fine, but the amount provided was insufficient for the numbers attending. Terry has taken this onboard and should we decide to use the venue again would look to review the menu and the quantity ordered. That said our thanks go to Terry for his time and effort in arranging what was a very enjoyable, fun night out. Terry would like to thank those who attended for their support and a special thank you to those who also donated raffle

prizes. The total raised by the raffle was £142, which is to be shared equally by the 3 club charities.

Sunset Strollers Christmas Dinner

Christmas Dinner at the Ansty Club on the 18th December, Dave Roper reported that despite a last minute hiccup on the catering front, the club's staff managed to rally round and ensured everyone had a nice meal and a very enjoyable time was had by all.

Obituaries

Sad to report that club member Kashmir Kaur, a regular Thursday and Sunday walker, passed away on 4th February, and Theresa Westwood's husband David died on 15th January, he had been ill for some months. Both funerals took place at Canley crematorium on the same day Friday 11th February. We have just been told Doug Hague, a past member who moved to Weymouth with his wife Elsie, has died aged 98 years. He served on the committee as Youth Hostel Bookings Secretary in 1976-1977. He will be remembered for the wonderful weekends he led in the Lake District.

Discounts available to members

If you are planning to purchase any new kit, you may be interested to know that you can use your membership card to get a bit of a discount in some outdoor shops. Rohan, GO Outdoors, and Lockwoods of Leamington are examples; there may be others and it is always worth asking.

January Holiday 2022

Day 1. Sunday 16th January 9am, and the much delayed January holiday at last got under way when our two coaches driven by Tracey and Jo left Upper Well Street and headed north for Lytham on the Lancashire coast. We had a couple of comfort breaks on route, the most memorable being near Preston at the Barton Grange garden Centre, where some of us popped into The Flower Bowl a leisure complex on site for tea and coffee. An amazing place, with loads of indoor sports activities which topically included the only full sized Olympic Curling rink in England where you could learn to play, unfortunately we didn't have enough time to try it out.

We arrived at the Dalmeny Hotel to find a very well appointed hotel, with spacious rooms, and good facilities. Dinner was a buffet and on the first night the queuing was a little chaotic but once we had got used to it, it was fine and worked well for the remainder of our stay. We had three courses, and the food was of a very good standard. There was entertainment in the evening in the Indigo Bar from Lazy Sunday, a group who played a good mixture of easy listening music. To be continued in the next newsletter.....