



# Coventry CHA Rambling Club Newsletter March 2024

## Annual Lunch 2024

This year the Annual Lunch will take place at Barston Lakes Golf Club on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April. It will be a 3 course Sunday lunch with a vegetarian option, followed by tea or coffee. Your choice of menu can be chosen on the day. The cost is £27.50 per head. The meal will be served at 1.30pm and will be preceded by a walk of approximately 5 miles for those who wish to take part which starts at 10.30 from the car park. Transport to the venue is by car only. A coach will not be hired on this occasion. If you would like to come along, please contact Dieshy Purewal. Furthermore, if you wish to attend but do not have your own transport and are unable to procure a lift, please contact Dieshy.

## Dates for your diary

1. Theresa is arranging a Sunday coach walk on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June to the Ludlow area. We will meet outside the Salvation Army as usual at 8.30am. There will be two walks an A and a B and for those who don't wish to walk there is plenty to see and do in Ludlow town. There will also be an opportunity to visit the 'Ludlow Food Centre' which offers a café/restaurant Cost £25 per person details for booking will be in May.
2. Another date for your diary will be Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August. More details nearer the time.
3. The Annual Outing will be on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July to Shrewsbury,

The coach will leave at 9am from the Salvation Army Building, Coventry.

We feel this will be a grand day out with lots to do, e.g.:

- Boat tour of the river Severn or a walk along the river bank around the town.
- A visit to the cathedral and the Abbey with all their history!
- A walk around the town centre to view the places connected with Charles Darwin,
- A walk to the Quarry and Shrewsbury's twenty-nine-acre parkland which houses Percy Thrower's beautiful garden called The Dingle
- There is also Shrewsbury Castle with the history of the Shropshire regiment.

- You may perhaps wish to visit the nearby redundant Shrewsbury Prison, which was decommissioned in 2013 but is now open to visitors.
- There are naturally many places to relax including great tea rooms, coffee shops, restaurants and olde worlde pubs. The choice is yours!
- Cost per person £25 and more details in May about booking your seat.

## Coffee mornings

There are 4 coffee mornings please but dates in your diary .All subject to dry weather !!

Angela 11<sup>th</sup> June: Sandra 16<sup>th</sup> July: Pauline 23<sup>rd</sup> July: Dieshy 13<sup>th</sup> August:



## Forthcoming Social Events

Skittle Night - Friday 22nd March at the Brandon Club. Cost £10

All tickets are now sold. There will be a choice of fish & chips or vegetarian options including spring roll or vegetarian sausage. Donations for the raffle would be much appreciated with proceeds to the British Heart Foundation.

Future events at Beechwood Avenue Tennis Club include :

Saturday 20th July - Barn Dance with caller. Tickets £10 with nibbles.

Saturday 2nd November - Rock n Roll evening with DJ Dave Tickets £10 with nibbles.

## Report on the Christmas Party, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

Due to poor ticket sales for this event Massey Ferguson Social Club kindly offered us a smaller ground floor room. All the 30 members who attended thoroughly enjoyed the party.

The afternoon got off to a flying start with an amusing theatrical performance from Neville. This was followed by a huge 'Pass the Parcel'. Then Dave challenged us with a music quiz and five ladies bravely put on a radio play with no rehearsal!

The food refreshment boxes went down very well and were voted very good value.

Two raffles were held, including one for Dieshy's hamper, and the proceeds were divided between the CHA Club's Charities.

Dieshy's hamper was won by Angela who generously donated it to the Beechwood Avenue Tennis Club for it to be raffled again at their choir afternoon. This raised funds for 'Grubngabclub' for the homeless at Christmas time.

Terry

## Annual Holiday

### Eastbourne 21<sup>st</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> January

Day 1. On Sunday our coach with 49 passengers set off to Eastbourne just after 9a.m, with a stop for refreshments at Cobham Service Station on the M25. After an uneventful journey we arrived at the Afton Hotel around 2.30pm. The hotel staff were very efficient with the check in, and we were soon inspecting our living accommodation for the coming week. The 2-star hotel with 3 floors, had a small lift and the rooms were comfortable and clean.



Our evening meal was at 6.30p.m. and there was waiter/waitress service. The three-course meal offered three choices and we could not fault the food at all. It was well cooked and of good quality and the service was excellent.

The evening entertainment started with a game of bingo run by the entertainer (sounds corny but it was good fun!). We enjoyed a female singer who was very engaging and had an exceptionally good voice. It was a perfect end to day one.

Day 2. Again, our breakfast meal was very good. The staff were friendly and could not do enough to help the group.

Three walks were on offer (A, B and C). They all went around the outskirts of Eastbourne starting at the same place. The A walk was 10 miles, B walk 7 miles and C walk 5 miles, it was very, very windy (care of Storm Isha), but the sky was blue and if you could find

a sheltered spot, the sun was quite warm. I plumped for the C walk with Dave, and he set a dangerous precedent by producing homemade fruit cake and cheese for us all at break time. We may start demanding this on all walks in the future! 👍.

The evening meal was again very tasty, but suddenly all the lights went out! Oh no not a power cut! Then emerging from the kitchen door, a cake with candles! It was Ann Bottrill's birthday, and the staff quickly gathered around her table and lead the singing of 'Happy Birthday to You'.



The evening's entertainment was bingo followed by a young lady singer, Melissa, who midway through her set produced a bag full of novelty musical instruments so that we could all join in.

*Here you can see a trio of CHA air guitarists.*

Day 3. On the original itinerary we were due to go walking but the weather forecast was very wet, so plans were swapped over, and we had a free day instead.

Some went to the cinema, others explored Eastbourne and its surrounds and quite a few of us went to Brighton for the day. There were lots to see in Brighton including the Pavilion which is stunning. There were plenty of places to eat and naturally many opportunities to go shopping, particularly in The Lanes with its jumble of passageways lined with small independent shops.

The evening entertainment was courtesy of George who was a bit of an all-rounder. He sang, played guitar, cracked corny jokes, joined in with the dancing, and did a rather good conjuring trick at our table.

Day 4. The plan had worked, and we now had three walks (A, B and C) available plus a sunny, bright, and dry day to go with them. It was still a bit windy, but it did not detract from the glorious views we had across the Downs, and the Seven Sisters were a magical highlight. All the walks ended in the coastal town of Seaford where we had time for a good look around and refreshments. Some chose to make their own way back to Eastbourne

on the local buses while others waited on the seafront for the coach by the Martello Tower Museum (which we were told was packed with nostalgia and well worth a visit).



As several of us had planned to go out to see the West End comedy "Noises Off" at the Congress Theatre, the evening meal was brought forward slightly to enable us to get to the venue in time for curtain up.

Back at the hotel Stevie Ray a singer/guitarist was getting everyone up and dancing and they were still at it when we arrived back from the theatre to join in.

Day 5. It was a bit overcast but mild, with no wind and basically dry. We had another three walks to choose from. This time the B and C walkers finished their walks in Battle. The coach picked up the two groups from Battle and took them to Hastings to meet up with the A walkers at the end of their walk.

The coach parked on the seafront of Hastings near the old town, with its quaint back streets, full of interesting quirky shops, tea rooms and old fashioned (proper)pubs.

Back at the hotel for our last night the entertainer was Mike. A singer/guitarist, he certainly got everyone up singing and dancing. I could hear the strains of 'Sweet Caroline' still ringing my ears, as I finished the last of my packing before retiring for the night.

Day 6. Breakfast was followed by a leisurely stroll along the Esplanade. Typically for departure day it was nice and sunny, and we wished we could stay longer but sadly no. We had to board the coach and wave a fond farewell to the Afton and its staff and head home.

But the fun was not over. Bags of sweets were passed around the coach and Dave had devised some quizzes to keep us occupied on the way home.

We should like to thank everyone who made this January holiday possible. A big thank you goes to Angela for organising everything and for her great team who pioneered the walks last September and took on the role of walk leaders.

Along with Angela, of course, walks were pioneered by Dave and Moira, Dieshy, Steph, Brian, Jo and Carol. Special thanks must also go to George who led all the brave A walkers.

Thanks to our Dunwood driver Charlie and the staff at the Afton Hotel we had a great holiday!

## Obituary for Janet

Most of you will have heard the sad news of the untimely death of Janet on Tuesday 23rd January. Janet was a long-standing member of the Club who joined us in November 1992. She was a Sunday walker and could often be seen out walking accompanied by her friend Charlie. She went on our CHA holidays, and Youth Hostel weekends and often joined in with our social events. She particularly enjoyed the barn dances. Janet was also an active member of Coventry U3A and the Greyfriars Club, an arts and recreation society based on Holyhead Road. Janet had many friends in the club and a very close friend and fellow club member Angie has contributed the following:

I met Jan when we were both studying in the Health and Beauty Department of the Coventry Technical College, as part-time mature students. We both qualified in Massage Therapy and Reflexology and enjoyed our work as therapists for many years.

Jan was a very caring person. She worked as a Carer for some years. We were both animal lovers, supporting various animal charities and sanctuaries. Jan was also 'a voice' for Animal Rights and a collector of stray cats, and she fed foxes and badgers on wasteland next to her home for all the years I knew her. Just prior to her death, I agreed to re-home the 5 stray cats she cared with The Cats Protection League, and Charlie (an ex-member of the club) continues to carry out her wish that the foxes/badger are fed regularly. We all miss her daily, the cats, foxes and badger included...

Angie