



Coventry CHA Rambling Club Newsletter March 2025

Sunday walks

Don't forget to put these up-and-coming dates in your diaries...

13th April Lichfield.

18th May Moreton-in-Marsh.

15th June Monmouth.

20th July Minster Lovell/Witney.

17th August Stamford area.

21st September Matlock.

A message from Jane, the goddaughter of Angela Cottrell

I would like to thank everyone who kindly sent me a card following the death of my godmother, Angela. It was lovely to read all the messages. They all talked of her love for the club, the chats and laughs you all had with her as you enjoyed your walks together. There were lots of references to the sketches she wrote for social occasions and in particular the year she gave everyone an unexpected Christmas gift, one of which was a brick!

It was comforting to know you all had memories of her which matched mine, a warm, friendly, artistic person who was loved by those who knew her. She was so poorly during the last months of her life, so it is helpful to be reminded of the happier times.

I am so glad that Angela had the club and her friends. You were all a special part of her life.

With best wishes

Jane

Our January holiday 2025 A little ditty from Angela

We travelled off to Cromer with our CHA club
Stopping at the services to purchase us some grub!

Hotel rooms were comfortable, some with pier sea views
Great food menus provided too, with so much to choose.

Driver Charlie found the nearby scaffolding would give him possible grief
But us sturdy, fit ramblers walked to the coach park- what a relief!

Dave, Moira, Simon, Sue, Debbie, Jane and me
Led us all out walking, with great care don't you agree!!

We ventured into fields, coastal paths, marsh and wood
And Komooting those routes ensured we knew where we stood!

We enjoyed the nightly bingo, and some had a big win
Jiving and Motown kept the dance floor swinging, all in a spin.

The walking weather was mostly kind to us without any fears
Allowing rambling most days, with no fuss or tears.

We thank each other warmly for the laughs and camaraderie
While appreciating the support from that very welcome lottery!

So here's to the next holiday, wherever it may be
Cyprus, Weymouth or Llandudno?

Here's hoping you are free!!!!!!

We set off on Sunday 19th January. Our Dunwood coach driver was Charlie. With 53 members on board, we were on our way to Cromer, and the Hotel De Paris. We appreciated a couple of stops on the way for a comfort break and then a lunch break at Cambridge services.

We arrived at the rear entrance of the hotel down a very narrow lane which was blocked by scaffolding at the far end. This was not ideal and necessitated Charlie having to reverse out once ourselves and our cases had been safely unloaded. Checking in and room allocation was smooth and efficient. The hotel was grand and imposing and I wondered why it had what seemed to be a quite pretentious name for a seaside hotel in a small Norfolk town.



Here's why..... Around 1820 the future hotel was the summer residence of Lord Suffield and was originally called Marine Villa. It was sold in 1830 to Pierre Gustavus Le Francoise, who was born in France in 1783. He and his mother had been brought to England by his aristocrat father Baron Pierre Augustus Del Barr who was escaping the aftermath of the French revolution of 1799. Originally it was listed as a boarding

house, but by 1845 under the ownership Pierre and his wife it had grown and prospered and was renamed the Hotel De Paris. The hotel is grade 2 listed on the National Heritage list for England.

Dinner was at 6pm with a good variety of well-cooked food on the 3 course menu to choose from and tea/coffee to follow. Once again it was Neville's birthday (84) and his seat was adorned with balloons and cards. There was also a free drink of his favourite tippie at the bar, courtesy of the friendly bar staff.

There was a nicely appointed bar and dining room which was soon transformed into an entertainment area with dance floor. After the bingo Rob was the first entertainer of the week. He treated us to a good mixture of country, rock music, The Beatles, Motown and much more.

Monday 20th January. After a substantial breakfast, there were 3 walks on offer to those who wished to partake, all starting from the hotel. These consisted of an **A** walk of 9 miles to Felbrigg and East and West Runton. A **B** walk of 6 miles to Felbrigg and East Runton and a **C** walk of 2.4 miles to the lighthouse and back.

C walkers amongst the beach huts and trekking to the lighthouse



Sketches courtesy of Ron

Evening meals were good on the whole. The few people who were disappointed with the curry had an apology from the staff and were offered a replacement main course from the menu. So all were happy in the end. The evening's entertainer was Carol, and she had plenty of us up and dancing. To add to the good time, we were joined by a coach trip (20) from Cardiff.



Tuesday 21st January. Three more walks were on offer just along the coast around the Sheringham area. These consisted of the following: **A** walk 10 miles, Upper Sheringham, Howe Hill and Welbourne . **B** walk 6 miles, a Sheringham circular and **C** walk 4 miles to Sheringham Park to see the Temple viewpoint.

The weather was overcast, but dry, and we had plenty of time to sample the delights of Sheringham after our walks.

Bruce was the entertainer for the evening. His voice was reasonable but he lacked entertainment skills and unfortunately soon managed to clear the dance floor! I don't think that was supposed to happen!

Wednesday 22nd January was a free day to do as you please. The vast majority took the coach to Norwich and spent the day there.

It was misty to start off but basically dry. There was plenty to see and do including the cathedral, the castle/museum, some nice shops from large department stores such as Jarrolds and John Lewis to small independent traders, the market, pubs, restaurants and riverside cafes.



Later back at the hotel, it was Ann B's birthday. She was presented with cards, a balloon, a cake with candles and the obligatory chorus of Happy Birthday to You.



Contrasting with the previous evening the entertainer, Eddie was an excellent entertainer with a fine tenor voice and a good instrumentalist.

On Thursday 23rd January all walks were in and around the Norfolk Wildlife Trust site and the Cley and Salthouse marshes near Cley next the Sea. The walks were: **A** walk 9.5 miles, around three of the salt marshes. **B** walk 5 miles around Cley marsh and the **C** walkers had a choice of 2 walks a 1.7 miles and a 2.4 miles both from the nature centre.



Lots of marshland birds were to be seen and the A walkers came across this creature on the beach. This I believe was a Pipe fish and Amrik made sure it was returned safely to the murky depths of the North Sea!



On the last night the entertainer, Ian Lavender? !, hit the right note and had everyone up and dancing. Who will ever forget Aileen and Ben's re-enactment of "Hot Stuff" from the Full Monty?!!!



Last night with CHA members and our Welsh friends taking to the dance floor

Friday 24th January, We said a fond goodbye to Cromer and the Hotel De Paris. It was great!!!

Our thanks to all those who were involved. They have made this another enjoyable and fun packed holiday. Special thanks go to the walk leaders Angela, Dave & Moira, Jane, Sue & Simon and Debbie.

CHARITY/SOCIAL

Christmas Party Report - The party was at Eastern Green Social Club on Saturday 14th Dec 2024. It turned out to be a successful event with 40 people attending. All agreed it was an entertaining and fun afternoon. Thanks go to Dave for the musical quizzes and to others who helped with activities. Contributions to the food from Dieshy and Angela were very well received. A donation of £420 was split between the Air Ambulance and Myton Hospice, and the total was boosted by the sale of Angela's table decorations which were sold at the end of the afternoon.

Future social events

Coffee Mornings

Chris - **Tuesday 3rd June 2025**. Chris will be holding her coffee morning at the Jaguar Bowls Club in Kinlet Close, Coventry CV6 5LS. There is a car park at the rear for 25+ cars. If the weather permits, we will try to put on a game or two on the green. Provided that you are wearing flat shoes/trainers you will be most welcome to have a go.

Angela - **Wednesday 18th June 2025**

Sandra & Graham - **Wednesday 16th July 2025**

Dieshy - **Wednesday 30th July 2025**

Pauline - **Wednesday 20th August 2025**

Vintage Coach Trip to Crich Tramway Museum, Tuesday 15th July

A second Vintage coach outing has been organised, this time to the Crich Tramway Museum. We have 35 places on the coach. We estimate the total cost will be approx. £30 which includes the group entrance fee to Crich Tramway Museum and the coach fare. Details to follow shortly.

Annual Day Out

Another date for your diary is Saturday 5th July when the club will be having our annual day trip. This time we will be going to Windsor and the cost will be £30. More details to follow soon.

Christmas Party, Eastern Green Social Club, Friday 12th Dec 2025, 12 - 4pm

Yes folks, we already have the date of this year's Christmas Party to be held on the afternoon of Friday 12th December. **Terry**

Theresa

You may or may not know that Theresa unfortunately had a fall near Pool Meadow when she was on the way to lead a Saturday Walk several weeks ago. It resulted in a severely broken wrist. She will be incapacitated for some weeks, but this hasn't stopped her attending the committee meeting as normal where Angela presented her with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the club.

Here's to a speedy recovery!