



Coventry CHA Rambling Club Newsletter March 2026

Report on Christmas 2025 Activities

The first event was the Thursday Christmas Walk and dinner on December 4th. After a bracing walk and tucking into Angela's wonderful festive fare of savoury rolls, mince pies, mulled wine and non-alcoholic beverages, 40 walkers sat down to a Christmas carvery. This was followed by a Christmas raffle and auction and the total, together with the funds raised at the disco night, was £724 in aid of Breast Cancer Research.

The second event was the Christmas Party which was once again held at the Eastern Green Social Club. The event was well attended and it was nice to see some (old? never!) familiar faces there. As the aim is to stay young and have some fun, the Christmas games and quizzes seemed to go down much better by arranging the seating in a closer circular fashion. Even the game of Pass the Parcel seemed to generate an extra shiver of anticipation!! The grand finale, something a bit different, was entertainment provided by a local group of bell ringers, and musicians which was a lovely seasonal touch. What can be more festive than the tinkling of bells and a Christmas sing-a-long?! The sum of £385 from an auction and a raffle was donated to Tools for Self-Reliance. Terry



Sketch of Weymouth Sea front courtesy of Ron Hodgkins

Weymouth holiday 18th to 23rd January

On Sunday January 18th, 42 members departed for the Crown Hotel in Weymouth. The Crown is a 3 star hotel with a nice bar and function room. The hotel had been recently renovated and the bedrooms were comfortable and nicely presented.

Monday 19th. After a good breakfast, to get walkers limbered up, there were two walks to choose from should they wish to partake. Everyone started out together, but the B walkers took a longer walk of 5.8-mile along the coastal path to Overcombe and the C walkers split off. Their walk of 3.9 miles took them along the sea front and through Lodmoor Country Park. The weather was overcast and a bit drizzly and windy however, (Aha!), the B walkers had in store a coffee break in a café halfway round and were able to miss the one real bit of rain, and generally speaking it was much less windy and cold than when pioneered! What luck for January!



Every evening, in the bar and function room, entertainment was provided. This consisted of a game of bingo followed by different singing entertainers. We heard some songs several times over as our entertainers tried to provide us with numbers appropriate to our age group. Neil Diamond seemed a popular choice to get the audience joining in. Special mention must go to our birthday girl Ann B and an entertainer called Billy Solo, a.k.a. Mr Tambourine Man. Everyone was given a tambourine to join in with the music so you can imagine the racket! I don't think I've ever seen our walkers quite so animated!! As you can see from the photo, Ann was subjected to a birthday chorus of tambourines whether she wanted one or not!!!

On Tuesday 20th, two walks were again available, this time in and around Dorchester.



More rain had fallen, but again, thank goodness, no drenching. The B Walk of 5.7 miles was a very scenic one to the birthplace and early adulthood dwelling of Thomas Hardy. This countryside explained the rural settings of his first two very famous novels and walkers



were thrilled to see ponies wandering around the nearby wood.

We stopped for a snack and drink outside The Old Manor House on the Kingston Manor estate which was known to have a Coventry connection. This was the birthplace of George Singer who not only moved to Coventry and established a successful company making bicycles, motorbikes and cars, but was also Mayor of Coventry from 1891 to 1894.

The C Walk of 2.7 miles was around Dorchester itself, but the walkers did not fair so well underfoot. It was a lovely flat walk for those averse to hills, but it had rained the night before and normally scenic streams were not far away! I am assured by the leaders, however, that this area of water was not as deep as the walkers were making it look!!! I feel sure they laughed about it afterwards! What's a walk without a bit of a challenge?!



Entertainment that evening was Steve Nicholls a good singer and keyboard player. His repertoire was the usual Elvis numbers, however, he was not getting the response from us he had hoped for, so he bravely asked what music we preferred. The requests came thick and fast. Angela went round the room and managed to fill a beer mat with a long list, and Debbie B added a few more for good luck. As he was also booked for Thursday night, he said he would try and learn some of the requests for our enjoyment.

Wednesday 21st was a day off from walking, so for those who wanted it there was a trip to Poole for the day. It was a very windy and pretty wet day, but we didn't care as there was plenty of shelter to be had. Some went shoe shopping and nearly everyone at sometime during the day found themselves in Poole Museum just near the sea front. This museum was excellent, with modern interactive displays relating to the fishing industry, and overall, very interesting. It also had a small café serving tasty snacks and what's more the admittance was free! An enjoyable and informative time was to be had there. In Poole generally shops and cafes were plentiful and included a Poole pottery outlet.

Thursday 22nd was thankfully a less windy and relatively drier day for our walks around Shaftesbury. The walks were kept short so that a visit to The Tolpuddle Martyrs Museum could be fitted into the day. The B walk was approximately 3 miles long and took in (both up and down!) the famous Gold Hill from the Hovis adverts, but spared us a very steep local park. The C walk of 1.4 miles also saw us at Gold Hill, but only for the view from the top (phew!) and those impressive views of the surrounding countryside from the top of the steep



local park on Pine Walk. (See above.)

Both walks gave us some time to have a look around Shaftesbury before boarding the coach for our journey on to Tolpuddle to visit the Tolpuddle Martyrs Museum. In the museum a gentleman treated us to a fascinating in-depth talk covering the story behind the Tolpuddle Martyrs. The guide was very articulate and knowledgeable. He made us understand clearly how worried the aristocracy of this country were due to the French Revolution, afraid that

workers here would get together to try to object to their poverty and ask for a decent living wage. So keen were the nobility to keep their wealth that they used trumped up charges which could legally only be used against members of the navy. Hence, the injustice that was meted out to the Tolpuddle workers.



Martyrs memorial sculptured in Portland stone by Thompson Dagnall of Liverpool. His design marks the time when George Loveless was in Dorchester Prison but was so ill his warders feared for his life if he was transported. So, he was held behind for a few weeks to recover whilst his five fellow martyrs were put aboard the hulks before being transported to Australia.

Back at the hotel Steve returned for the evening entertainment and he had made good his promise to learn quite a lot of the new numbers including tracks from Hot Chocolate and The Killers.

Friday 23rd had to come round and it was all aboard the coach for the return journey home. Mention should perhaps be made here of our coach driver, Paul, who kept us entertained with his commentary on the events of each day and the times we would be returning to Weybiza! Who could fail to be moved when he signed off each time with "Love you"!! Thank you too to Dave R for the onboard quizzes which stopped us falling asleep, kept the grey cells working and at the same time entertained.

Yet another memorable and enjoyable holiday! Thanks go to all those who organised this trip and all the walk leaders: Angela, Dave & Moira, and Sue & Simon.

Neville's 85th birthday party

Celebration of this event took place on January 25th at Eastern Green Social Club. Neville's 85th Birthday?! it seemed like only yesterday we were celebrating Neville's 80th! Neville's nieces (he has four) had arranged a party for him that at the social club in Church Lane, Eastern Green. It was very well attended by his relatives and friends from his many hobbies and interests, such as gardening, the Wheatsheaf Players, and the CHA.



After Neville's short welcoming speech, we partook of a lovely buffet. The nieces had done a marvellous job. The room was beautifully decorated, and there was a special cake illustrating all those activities closest to Neville's heart. Special mention must be made of Julie Wheatcroft's contribution. She had spent many hours researching and compiling a photograph album of Neville's activities with the CHA going back many years. Everyone enjoyed very much leafing through the book, as it brought back some great memories.



The Wheatsheaf Players, Neville's acting friends, presented Neville with a star shaped glass award to thank him for his many contributions on stage and as front of house.



Dave R, on behalf of CHA, presented Neville with a certificate of Lifetime Membership. This honour was also bestowed on Dave T. This was in appreciation of Neville and Dave T's many years of contribution to the Coventry CHA.



After the buffet there was an opportunity to throw some shapes to the songs of a live singer, and Neville's brother Bob did not miss the opportunity!! Amazingly this singer had answered the frantic distress call of Neville's nieces via social media after the original singer cancelled at the last minute, the night before! She had a great voice and did an excellent job at such short notice. We may see this singing artist again at one of our socials!

Many Happy Returns Nev!!!

[Isle of Wight holiday October 2026](#)



Looking forward there are plans for a 7-day holiday from 18-24th October to the Ocean View Hotel in Shanklin. This hotel is situated in a prime cliff-top location looking out across Sandown Bay. Shanklin town centre, Shanklin old village and the Chine are all within easy walking distance. Bus routes, Shanklin train station, and taxi services are all within 5 minutes from the hotel with links to get you all over the island and back.

1. Please send Angela W your name(s) by e mail/text and your room requirement Single /Double/Twin
2. A £40 deposit per person to the CHA bank account can then secure the holiday.
Account Name: Coventry CHA Rambling Club
Balance required 1st August 2026

News on Sunday coaches

Theresa is focusing on offering us six Sunday coach walks this year. The plan is for the walks to take place on the 3rd Sunday of each month starting in April and going through to September. They will be 9a.m. starts, unless otherwise stated, and will cost £20 per person. Here is a taste of what is being proposed currently.

AprilChepstow. **May**.....Towcester. **June**.....Tewkesbury. **July**.....St Ives, Cambridge
August.....TBA. **September**.....Leek area.

These locations are not yet confirmed, and leaders are only just starting to plan these walks so they may be changed. Location, mileage etc will be confirmed in due course.

Future events - Dates for your diary

COFFEE MORNINGS: Call out from Terry for members who would like to hold a coffee morning or other similar event to raise money for their chosen charity this year. Please contact Terry with details.

Skittles night. Saturday 25th April at Brandon Social Club. Tickets £15 to include fish and chip supper or vegetarian option. Contact Terry.

Christmas Party 2026. Advance notice date for your diary Friday 11th December 12noon to 4pm. Terry.

A day trip to Bletchley Park. Saturday 12th September. Angela is planning a trip to the home of the Enigma code breakers.