Russell's Ramblings

I can't believe that we are already working on our Autumn walks programme, time is flying by. For most walkers it has been a Goldilocks year, too cold, too hot and just right.

To any aspiring walk leaders out there email me and I can help you to get involved. Leading is great fun and enables us all to enjoy the core activity of the Group, walking in the Essex countryside.

Social activities are also flourishing. I can report first hand that the strawberry tea was a great success. Having slipped off the calendar last year the revival was held on a sunny Sunday afternoon in Purleigh. Long may it continue and many thanks to the enthusiastic volunteers that make these events possible.

Also scheduled is a first aid training programme on the morning of Thursday 20th September. To be held in Maldon at a subsidised cost of £12.50. Email me to reserve one of the last three places.

Keep looking at the website for new activities including a Saturday walk in Suffolk, half day and full day to suit all walkers. Also a three part walk on a Tuesday in the new programme, walk 4 miles, 15 miles or somewhere in between, eat breakfast and /or lunch. Design your own day.

Best wishes to all
Russell, chairman

Walk Leaders
Please report any changes to the current programme directly to Alan Davey
davey544@btinternet.com
Alan can then update the website
Walker numbers should continue to be reported directly to Alison Taylor
alisonjtaylor@btopenworld.com

Dates for the diary

Thursday 20 September
First Aid training. Three places remaining. Contact Russell to book a place on this subsidised course.

Saturday 6 October
Walk around Long Melford, Suffolk. Please see events page on the website for more details.

Tuesday 23 October - AGM
7.00pm at the Purleigh Bell, CM3 6QJ. Please contact Jim Roche, secretary if you are interested in joining the committee and/or applying for one of the offices (see end of newsletter for details). More information about the AGM will be sent nearer the time.

Thoughts on walking

Walking takes longer than any other known form of locomotion except crawling. Thus it stretches time and prolongs life. Life is already too short to waste on speed.

- Edward Abbey, author 1927-1989
Footpath Maintenance Work

The footpath maintenance group is up and running. Leaders and walkers, if you find a footpath we use in Maldon district in need of some TLC let me know and we might be able to do something about it. Currently the group is only undertaking vegetation clearance work. Later we may be able to take on construction work such as stiles and bridges.
For more information contact Russell at russgriffiths1@aol.com, with 'path clearance' as the email subject.

General Data Protection Requirements (GDPR)

Most of you would have heard about this process if not from the Ramblers then from numerous other organisations and companies! Following their “re-permissioning” email campaigns, Ramblers Central Office are rebuilding the email consent lists in a much more compliant and strategic way. As one step, the wording on the Central Office website permissions page has been revised to make it much clearer that members must opt-in to email (on the website permissions page) to receive local walk programmes and newsletters by email. Members must do this directly with the Ramblers central office not via the local group. If you do not update your details with them you may not receive the walks programmes, newsletter of other email information.

Basic Rights of Way

Confused about the rights and wrongs when using footpaths and other public rights of way? The Ramblers have developed a very useful guide to the basics. A link to the site is available through our own website - Maldon & Dengie Ramblers or via the national Ramblers website. It tackles questions such as - what is a right of way, what are my rights, how wide should a path be, are horses and cyclists allowed on a public path, can I remove an obstruction, what is trespass?

Changes to Footpath Network in Maldon District

The process for making changes to footpaths is a lengthy process and it takes even longer for the changes to be recorded on OS maps! Below is a list of footpaths in Maldon district currently being considered for diversion or other changes:

- Confirmed and definitive map updated - Purleigh footpaths 4, 7 and 49, Bradwell-on-Sea footpaths 8 and 15
- Waiting updating of definitive map - Mayland new path from Sea View Parade to Nipsells Chase, footpath 19, Southminster FP 22, Dengie FP 8
- Long term 'temporary' diversions - Stowe Maries bridleway 24; Heybridge bridleway 24 and Burnham footpath 4

for further information contact Jackie at jackie.harrop@hotmail.co.uk. Details will also be posted on our website under the footpath tab.
Rambler’s HQ - Data & Digital Transformation Plan

Members have now received new membership cards with QR codes. The QR code reader will be part of the updated walker registration app for Android and iOS phones. The aim is to make taking the walk register for led walks easier and quicker. A pilot will be starting in July and running through to October in Wiltshire, Essex (not Maldon & Dengie group) and across Scotland. Thereafter a national rollout is being planned.

For more information please refer to the Ramblers website and the volunteer newsletter June 2018.

Useful Websites

- www.gridreferencefinder.com - easy to use & useful for identifying post codes and grid references
- www.mapmywalk.com - library of many walks and helps with plotting your own
- www.walk4life.info - UK site useful for plotting and finding walks
- www.essexhighways.org - has host of information to local PROWs e.g. guides, policies, access.

Maldon & Dengie Hundred Ramblers’ Committee 2017/18

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Maldon & Dengie website  www.maldonanddengieramblers.org.uk
Essex Area website  www.essexarearamblers.co.uk

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