

Guildford Group of the Ramblers' Association

70th Programme

1st March 2012 – 1st July 2012

www.guildfordramblers.org.uk

Welcome to this edition of the newsletter.
Included in this edition is:

- A brief note about the AGM
- Just what the committee gets up to
- An early day call for this year's Walkfest

but first our thanks to Mike Murphy and Colin Selvin and for their efficiency in pulling together the new walks programme. Also thank you all you walk leaders for volunteering. **To offer your help contact** phillipmansley@ntlworld.com

AGM happenings...

At the AGM in November, Keith Chesterton the founding Chair of the Group stood down as Mike Murphy was elected as Chair, Phillip Mansley as Group Secretary and Brian Ross as Treasurer. The other members of the committee elected are Robert Owen, Angela Owen, Chris Cheverst, Pat Camp, Keith Chesterton, Kaye Moseley, Mike Roberts, Bob Allen and Basil Minor.



It was acknowledged with grateful thanks the contribution to the work of the group by Metta Baylis who stepped down. Whether leading walks, hosting meetings at her home or co-ordinating the Christmas lunch – Metta is there. Thank you Metta. Also Mary Pugh had stepped down. Mary always offering encouragement to the Group's activities.

Keith writes:

"From Keith Chesterton
Can I thank all of you who contributed to the unexpected & generous present you gave me when I stepped down as Chair.
I have already used part of it to buy myself a nice padded jacket. I am starting to feel the cold a bit more than I used to!



At the Committee meeting we just held, I was delighted to have Mike Murphy have the responsibility - & bring in new ideas.

I'm not dropping out of the work & I'm still taking in all the report forms & producing our walk statistics
Thank you again"

AND to really know more about the Guildford Group Committee - just what do they do?



Well, recently besides some business stuff about bank balance and who signs the cheques when there is a change of committee members, there is always a footpath or bridleway that needs representations being made about its use or misuse to Surrey County Council or through the Surrey Area Group – Chris Cheverst is our champion of the footpath and other rights of way issues currently Peaslake, Shere, Effingham and even Bedford Road in Guildford.

Membership

...how do we encourage a larger membership?

Is this just something for everyone to do? Why do we get lots of walkers in the week but not at weekends.

The discussion centred on the need to maintain and extend the range of walks during the week, including the occasional day of the week other than on a Wednesday, a mix of shorter walks - 5 miles is too long for some folk – always tricky to get the balance right isn't it.

Walk Leaders

National research for the Ramblers shows that the reason most people join the ramblers is the group walks.

We should try to improve our members' enjoyment of our walks and to attract new members.

As members we should make sure we always welcome new people on walks and make sure when we reach a turn, that we wait if the walkers behind can't see you.

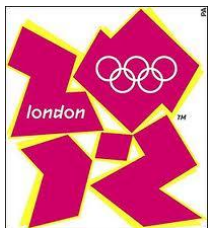
Mid-week break

A suggestion also was to ask around about a possible mid-week break say over 2/3 nights – so if you would be interested in the principle of such an event please let Phillip know on his email address phillipmansley@ntlworld.com



London Olympic Walk 2012

As London is the only city ever to host The Olympic Games on 3 occasions we will visit all 3 sites. Stages 1 and 3 will be found within the Spring / Summer programme on 17th March and 31st March.



Wiltshire White Horse Trail

Chris Cheverst (our Footpath Secretary) is leading a walk to visit various White Horses on "The Wiltshire White Horse Trail" during the week of the 5 Sept to 11th Sept..

It is proposed to source accommodation in the Devizes area. Members are invited to join this partially linear walk.

Contact details for Chris: e mail footpaths@guildfordramblers.org.uk or telephone 01372 456251.

Guildford WalkFest – 2012



The information detail for this year's Walkfest will be on our website for you to download. It is the Walking Forum, with Guildford Borough Council, who are organising the 6th annual WalkFest from Saturday July 7th to Sunday July 22nd.

It has been brought 1 week forward to avoid clashing with the Olympics.

It will have a mixture of different types of walk & there will be at least 38 walks. Guildford Group is providing a number of them.

Save this fortnight for your 'staycation' walking holiday!

38 walks may sound a lot but you certainly will be fit at the end of it whether you join in with all or even only a few!

Keith - WalkFest organiser



Looking for new gear?
Looking for a good price
at a discount?

Don't forget that the Rambler's have an arrangement with the Cotswold company to offer a discount on production of your membership card.



If you are looking to take an overseas walking holiday, be sure to give the partnership with HF holidays a look.