

**Dear Member**

## **Rambler Group Walks**

I wrote to you in July coming out of the Lockdown that we were restarting Small Group Walks. These were essentially ‘friends’ walks and we wanted to ensure all members had access to walks, if they wanted to walk in a group. These walks were not under the Rambler umbrella and since you are a member of Ramblers, it was a transitional arrangement.

I am writing again, as we are now able to organise Rambler Group Walks. If you visit Ramblers website, you will see that Ramblers and Walking for Health organised Group Walks are categorised as ‘**outdoor physical activity events**’. They are **exempt** from the latest restrictions, announced on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Permission to walk in larger groups has been negotiated through Sport England, delegated by the Government. We have already met the protocols, and put extra measures in place to reduce the risks of COVID-19.

Your Committee has decided to limit the size of Groups to 15 members. This is based on the size of car parks at the start of walks, as car sharing is discouraged. We also felt it set a comfortable, safe number amongst members, allowing for passing through gates and over stiles.

Our Rambler Group walks will commence in October with a celebration. It is 25 years since the Group was formed and we had planned a Dinner and Dance. Sadly this had to be postponed to next year, when conditions should have improved. But we are still marking the event with a Commemoration Gate installed in Remenham. On October 2<sup>nd</sup> a short and long walk will terminate as the gate is completed.

All our Rambler Walks will be published on our website. You must book a place in order to join a walk. We are using a programme called Eventbrite, which will issue a ticket by email and will advise you if the walk is full. This is the same system used by National Trust to issue tickets for their houses, gardens and parks. Just click on the Book symbol next to the walk.

If you know a fellow member who doesn’t have access to our website via the internet; please tell them about the walks. They can contact the Walks Leader and he will check if there is a place on a walk and let them know.

You should not travel to a walk start if you feel unwell. The Leader will check that you have received the email, effectively a ticket, forming the basis of the Government’s Track & Trace procedure.

The Walk Leader will have pre-walked /recce’d the walk route in order to carry out a risk assessment or check list of items on the walk. It is essential that we carry out social distancing on the walk. Use sanitizers, especially whilst using gates and stiles, not share walking poles or food and drink and carry a face mask. These are all measures to protect

ourselves; but also to enjoy walking in the countryside with the company and friendship of fellow walkers.

## **Congratulations!**

I am sure you will join me in congratulating our member, Helen Tranter on her election to the Rambler's Board of Trustees, the governing body of the Ramblers; it leads the charity and decides how it is run.

## **Walking Weekends**

The weekend in Selworthy is going ahead in October with reduced numbers to comply with Covid19 restrictions. A flyer is enclosed for the April 2021 weekend to Ilkley, to confirm first those members that previously booked before the lockdown forced postponement. We have just booked places in the HF Country House in Bourton on the Water in September 2021 and you can reserve a place with a non refundable deposit using the enclosed flyer.

## **AGM**

We are planning our AGM for 5<sup>th</sup> November at Finchampstead Memorial Hall. I have visited the Hall and it is classed Covid secure. To meet these criteria, the capacity of the hall is limited to 30. We will again use the Eventbrite programme on our website to limit the number attending. In addition you can 'attend' the meeting using Zoom, to follow the business. The details for joining the meeting are given at the bottom of this Newsletter.

## **Social Events**

We have provisionally booked halls for a Barn Dance in March and a Summer Social in July; obviously dependent on Government advice at that time.

## **Finally....**

To stay with tradition, I hope to invite you all to the Chairman's Mince pie walk on the morning of Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

David Moffett

Chairman

September 2020

## **AGM Zoom Details**

Meeting ID 865 9303 5114

Passcode 662787