



MESSAGE FROM JOHN PYE

What a great week we had on the Isle of Wight holiday in May. Good weather, great scenery, wonderful company and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thanks once again to Jim for all the organisation and arrangements that were flawless and without mishap. Although sadly I can't make the next holiday in Majorca, I'm sure it will be just as successful.

Many of the Committee have been busy with Festival arrangements and other matters that has meant the detailed feedback on the recent survey is still on the to do list. However, that aside some of your suggestions are already being implemented. The next Group Walks programme includes walks on different days of the week as well as Thursday and Sunday. There will be walks accessible by Public Transport and the system for offering or requesting a car share using posts on the Group Facebook page has been recently circulated, although few to date have been posted.

A big thank you for all of you who took part in the Elham Valley Walking Festival at the end of May. The organiser Peter Corkhill was most appreciative of your support in helping to swell the numbers and create a friendly and enthusiastic atmosphere for our other visitors. A particular thanks was given to Andrew Swarbrick for leading one walk and stepping in to lead another when the Elham leader had to step aside due to an injury.

The next big White Cliffs event is undoubtedly the Walking Festival at the end of August, and the booking system for walks is due to go live online at the end of June. There is still a need for some volunteers that is dealt with later in this Newsletter. So, a request from me; If you are able to help and volunteer, please help us to make the 2022 White Cliffs Walking Festival a great success, especially given the difficulties with Covid in the last couple of years. It's a great opportunity for us to showcase our activities and wonderful countryside.



KEVIN JOYCE

As many of you will have heard, we were shocked and saddened to learn of the recent and sudden death of Kevin Joyce. He had been a Ramblers member since 2014 and became actively involved in the work of our Group following last year's Walking Festival. He took over the role managing and developing the Festival's website and made a significant contribution in terms of design and layout of this year's Festival publicity materials.

Since his passing, we have become aware of Kevin's involvement in several other charitable organisations in Deal. It has been evident that all held Kevin in high regard and his contributions were much valued and appreciated. A great loss to the local community – may he rest in peace.

WHITE CLIFFS WALKING FESTIVAL



We are now a little under two months away from the start of this year's White Cliffs Walking Festival. There are thirty four walks planned, offering a wide variety of walking opportunities across the entire White Cliffs patch. With Kent's Heritage Coast being named as one of the top four regions in the world to visit this year, several the walks will highlight why this accolade was so deserved.

As a result of the death of Kevin Joyce, we had to make a late change to the arrangements for making the details of walks available. You will now find that you can download a copy of the walks programme from the Festival website – www.whitecliffswalkingfestival.org.uk

To keep the numbers attending within manageable limits each walk (with some exceptions) has a maximum of forty places available. We have also had to make a late change to the booking arrangements for these walks. You will now find that the Festival walks need to be booked via an online system – Eventbrite. There is a unique link included in the detail for each walk. You may book up to a maximum of four places on any given walk.

We still require back-markers for several of our walks. It would be helpful if you are able to assist with one of these walks:

28th August Canterbury's Rural Surrounds – 12 miles. Walk leader – Jim Bushnell

28th August Round Dover Ramble – 12 miles. Walk leaders – Les Oliver / Helena Trevelyan

30th August From Coast to Downs from Deal Pier – 11 miles. Walk leader – Andrew Swarbrick

We would also like help on our walks to assist walk leaders to welcome participants and tell them about Ramblers and what we do. So if you are coming on any of the walks please do let us know if you're willing to help.

If you can help, please email Lesley Stephenson ljstephenson@live.co.uk

DOVER INLAND BORDER FACILITY

Following various postponements and a recent government review, HMRC has decided that the proposed Inland Border Facility (IBF) would no longer be required. The review considered that there was sufficient capacity at the Sevington IBF (Ashford) to meet current requirements. It therefore concluded that the construction costs, said to be £120 million, did not represent value for money.

Whilst this is good news, especially for the residents of Whitfield and Guston, this might be tempered in the knowledge that the Department for Transport still own the site and are considering possible options for its future. This might also mean that some of the rumoured enhancements to the North Downs Way may not now materialise.

Anyone visiting the area in recent weeks may be forgiven for thinking that work on the IBF was in full swing. However, all of this activity is associated with the construction of the fast-track bus route between Whitfield and Dover.

ALDINGTON SOLAR FARM

In the last WCR Newsletter we reported on proposals for the construction of a huge solar farm in Aldington. The smaller of the two sites, led by EDF Energy, has passed through the initial phase of consultation, and is now awaiting the publication of a detailed planning brief.

The second proposed development (Stonestreet Green Solar) is at a much earlier stage. A Community Liaison Panel has been established. Nigel Spence (Local Footpath Officer) and Andrew Swarbrick (Aldington Resident and WCR Membership Secretary) have both been invited to take part in this Panel. Given the possible ramifications of such a large-scale development, Nigel and Andrew recently met with Colin Sefton (Kent Ramblers Area Chairman).

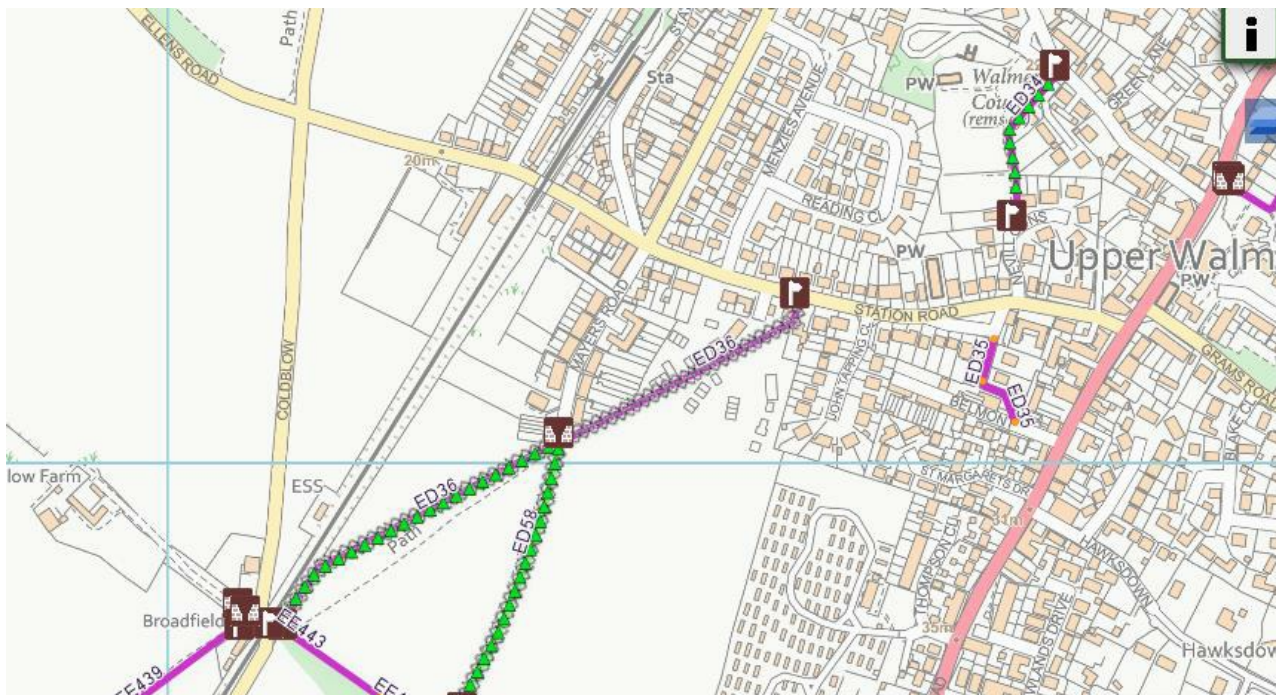
PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (PRoW)

Over the past 12 months Kent Ramblers have held a series of online seminars considering a range of topics affecting the public rights of way network. Most recently this looked at the issue of applications by Network Rail to close footpaths. These seminars normally consist of a presentation by Graham Rusling (Public Rights of Way and Access Manager at KCC), followed by an open forum.

The next seminar will be taking place on July 13th at 19:30 (via Zoom), when the topic will be 'Temporary Path Closures'. If you have ever wondered why a 'temporary closure' can last for 2 years or more this is your opportunity to find out. If you are interested in taking part, please email - prow.seminars@kentramblers.org.uk

Having mentioned temporary footpath closures, this set me thinking about how to tell if a footpath has been closed, and for how long this will last.

The simplest way is to check the KCC interactive PRoW Map at: [Public Rights of Way - Public Rights of Way Map \(kent.gov.uk\)](https://www.kent.gov.uk/public-rights-of-way) To locate the area in which you are interested you can search by Town / Village; Postcode; OS Map Grid Reference or Path Code. In the example below, we are looking at footpath ED36 in Walmer.



You will notice that a section of the path is hatched in grey (xxxxxxxxxx). This signifies that there has been a temporary closure, and by clicking on the hatching reveals the following information:

Feature Information



Path Details

Code: 0335/ED36/1
Parish: Walmer
Status: Public Footpath
Length: 253m

Temporary Closure

Notes: Public footpath ED36 and public bridleway ED58 are closed until 14/12/2022. ED36 closed between Station Rd and Coldblow crossing. ED58 closed from Mayers Rd to public footpath EE443.

In this case the footpath has been temporarily closed to allow for the construction of a new housing estate.

On the map you will also notice that some footpaths have green triangles along part or all of their length. This denotes that this section of footpath falls within the provisions of KCC's vegetation clearance contracts. Clicking

on the triangles will tell you how often the contractor is required to make a cut.

Using this KCC map may also help you make sense of Roger King's highly informative PROW monthly updates posted to the WCR website, see [White Cliffs Ramblers: Footpaths](#)

CAR SHARING

Just a quick reminder that you can now offer or request a car share via the Group's Facebook page ([White Cliffs Ramblers | Facebook](#)) . This is a private group, so only members of the group can add or respond to a comment.

If you do respond to an offer or request, please do not share any personal details, such as your address or telephone number. Instead you should use the 'Message' facility within Facebook. If you are not familiar with Facebook messaging, this is the procedure:

- ☐ Click on the name of the person to whom you wish to send a personal message. This will open a box with their profile.
- ☐ At the bottom of this profile box click on the button marked 'Message'.
- ☐ This will then open another box where you can type further details. When you have finished typing hit the 'Enter' key to send your message.
- ☐ As only you and the recipient can see the message, you can include contact details.
- ☐ Do remember to regularly return to Facebook to check if there have been any replies to your messages.

BIRD FLU

BIRD FLU ADVICE

Avian influenza (bird flu) is circulating in seabirds and other wildlife in Kent.



If you see a dead bird or other wildlife where cause of death is unclear, please do not touch or move it. Keep away and do not let your pet (especially dogs) go near.

If you find a dead bird or other wildlife on public land, for removal and disposal please call your local District or Borough Council.



I recently came across this piece of advice, and it seemed worth repeating here.

If you find a dead bird on private land, it is the landowner's responsibility to safely dispose of the carcass.

Although the risk of transmission to humans is low, you should not pick up a dead or sickly bird you may find.

For further advice see:

[Avian influenza \(bird flu\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)