

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Wishing all White Cliffs members a Happy New Year.

The long hot summer of 2022 seems to have been succeeded by endless days of rain, soaking the countryside and providing a challenge to walkers attempting to negotiate yet another muddy footpath. At least milder weather now seems to have arrived.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 2022

Speaking of the weather, the rain significantly reduced the numbers attending the AGM walk. In past years there have been at least 30 or 40 walkers. This year the number was reduced to seven (fool?)hardy souls shown here. (The 7th is Lee Pickup, taking the photograph).

One of the main purposes of the AGM is to receive the Annual Report, highlighting the Group's achievements and key developments during the preceding 12 months. This is the primary mechanism through which the

officers of the Group can be held accountable for their areas of responsibility.

The other main function of the AGM is to elect the Group's Officers for the forthcoming year. Below is the list of postholders for 2022 / 2023:

Group Chair:	John Pye
Group Secretary:	Helena Trevelyan
Group Treasurer:	John Shale
Membership Secretary:	Andrew Swarbrick
Walks Co-ordinator:	Deborah Quow
Publicity Officer:	Lee Pickup
Social Secretary:	Anne Hickey
Newsletter Editor:	Tony Bristow
Committee Member:	Margaret Milsted – Williamson (with responsibility for Parish Footpath Observers)
Committee Member:	Jane O'Neill (has subsequently resigned).
Committee Member:	Pam Brivio

THE LES PRESTON PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

In memory of WCR stalwart, Les Preston, a panel of three judges had, for each month, selected their favourite photographs posted to the Group's website or Facebook page. These selections were then submitted to all members of the WCR Committee to choose the overall winner of the competition. Congratulations to Lee Pickup for this winning entry:



A limited print run of a calendar containing twelve photographs was created, the sale of which generated over £40 towards group funds.

We are running the Les Preston Photographic competition again this year. To be in with a chance of winning start posting your photos to the Group's Facebook page, or email them to John Pye (johnrpye@icloud.com) or John Shale (j_shale@live.com) - please note there is an underscore between 'j' and 'shale'.

WALK LEADERS' FORUM

Have you ever wondered what does it takes to lead a Ramblers group walk?

Have you ever thought about leading as group walk, but have not done so yet?

If you have answered 'Yes' or even 'Maybe' to either of these questions then why not come along to our introductory session to be held on Saturday 11th March, 2023 from 13:00 to 15:00.

The venue for this session will be St. Margaret's Village Hall, Reach Road, CT15 6AP.

If you are interested in attending, or would like some more information please contact either:

Deborah Quow (07963 402294) or Margaret Milsted – Williamson (07964 067915).

Whilst we are on the subject of group walks, I am sure that Deborah will not say no if you have a walk to offer for our April to June programme.

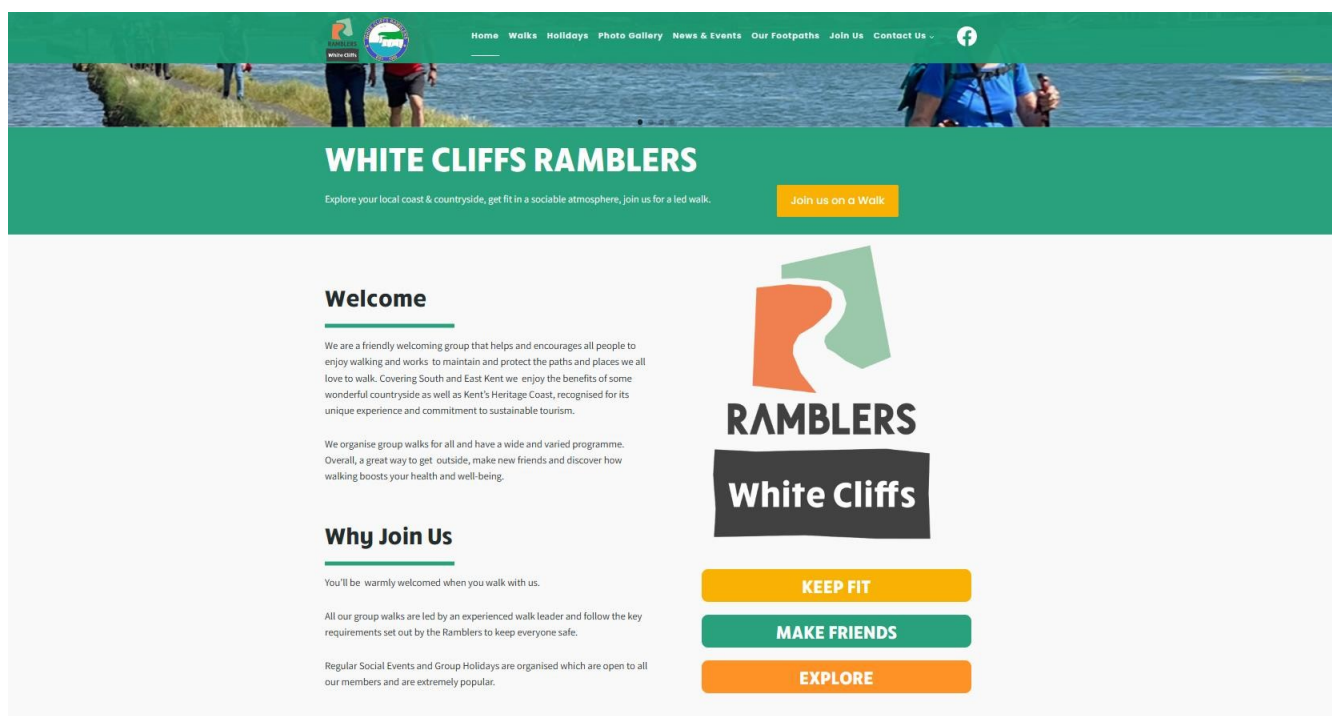
WCR WEBSITE

After more than a decade of being responsible for the Groups' websites, Gavin Trevelyan has now stood down as our Web Editor. We extend a big thank you to Gavin for the many hours he has spent in maintaining and updating both our main website and that of the White Cliffs Walking Festival.

Recognising that a number of technological changes had taken place since Gavin originally developed our website, it was decided that this provided us with an opportunity to refresh and update our main website. Working with a Ramsgate based web designer, Keith Ross of CriticalArt, we have been able to successfully launch our new website during the past week. Thanks go to John Pye, Jane O'Neill and Gavin Trevelyan for all of their efforts during the development phase.

If you are interested in helping to keep our website content up to date, please contact John Pye - johnrpye@icloud.com

If you have not recently looked at our website, the new pages can still be found at www.whitecliffsramblers.org.uk



WHITE CLIFFS RAMBLERS WALKING WEEK 17TH – 23RD JULY, 2023.

At its January meeting, your Committee confirmed that the White Cliffs Walking Festival would not be held in 2023. The main reason behind this decision was the fact that many of the volunteers who had been involved in organising our previous walking festivals had stood down after the 2022 event. However, it was decided to hold a 'Walking Week' just for Ramblers members from Monday 17th July to Sunday 23rd July, the intention being to hold at least one walk each day during the week.

If you have an idea for a walk during the week, please contact Deborah Quow (07963 402294).

Walking Festival 2024 and beyond?

We need a small team of volunteers to form a new Planning and Organising Team if there is to be a Walking Festival in 2024.

The main areas of activity are:

- Project co-ordination and administration;
- Organising the Festival walks programme; and
- Publicity and promotion.

We have funding to cover promotion materials for at least one more Festival, but we would also need to consider fundraising and sponsorship in the longer term too.

If you would like to be part of this project team, please contact me – Andrew Swarbrick (andrewswarbrick13@googlemail.com) or 07754797848 – or speak to me on a walk. I would hope to hold an inaugural meeting before the summer to start planning for next year.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Annual Lunch Sunday 2nd April 2023

We have booked Rising Sun at Stourmouth for our first annual lunch since the start of the pandemic. Further details and a menu will be sent out soon, and you will be invited to reserve your place beforehand.

Skittles evening

For those members who are feeling energetic, we will be having a Skittles evening on Friday 23rd June, starting at 6:30pm. This will be at The Chance Inn, Guston and will include a buffet halfway through the evening. So that we know how many people to cater for, we will be sending out further details nearer the time.

Quiz Night

Looking further ahead, there will be an opportunity to test your knowledge in a pub quiz that we are planning for Friday 29th September. The venue for this event will be The Five Bells pub in Eastry. Again, further details will follow.

If you have an idea for a social event that you would like to organise, please contact Anne Hickey (anne.hickey1@gmail.com)

CAR SHARING

If you are looking for a lift to the start of a walk or have space in your car that you could offer to someone, please post brief details on the Group's Facebook page. Do not post any personal contact information, but rather use the personal messaging facility to respond.

CANTERBURY WALKING WEEK 23RD – 30TH APRIL 2023

Our neighbours in Canterbury have organised their third Walking Week for the last week in April. There are eleven walks planned for the week, including three that will explore the Canterbury Rings (ranging from 2 to 13.7 miles).

You will need to book to take part in one of these walks. Full details of the walks programme and booking arrangements can be found at:

[CWW-2023-Programme-.pdf \(whitecliffsramblers.org.uk\)](https://whitecliffsramblers.org.uk/CWW-2023-Programme-.pdf)

Medway Ramblers 3-8 September 2023 Walking Holiday to Bromsgrove

Medway Ramblers have also let us know of an opportunity to take part in a Walking Holiday – further details are shown on their website at <https://medwayramblers.weebly.com/news--social.html>

- Where? Bromsgrove hotel & Spa (Britannia Hotels), Birmingham Road, Bromsgrove, B61 0JB
- How Much ? £543 per person for 6 days/ 5 nights half board
- Single supplement? Check with Adam at the time of your booking if a single supplement will be payable (the hotel is allocating a certain number of rooms free of a supplement)
- Depart by coach (with toilet on board) from opposite Rochester Railway Station on Sunday, 3rd September 2023 at 9am
- Price includes 5 nights Dinner/ Bed and Full English Breakfast/ Packed Lunch
- Choice of walks led by our own group leaders
- Excursions/ drop-offs/ pickups tba
- Deposit of £100 plus £31 optional insurance per person should be paid as soon as possible to reserve your place (s) and at the latest by 31 March 2023 Balance to be paid by 18 June 2023

Deposit is non-returnable (unless the tour is cancelled due to the government guidelines, or you have taken out trip insurance)

- Booking form available. Please contact Adam Price, Social Secretary via email: aprice_nthgill@hotmail.com
- Or by post to Adam at 13 Clifton Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 1NA. Any queries to Adam on 01634 571426