



Report for WCR Committee Meeting 23 May 2023



TREASURER REPORT FOR mar, apr, may (to 10th) 2023 – John Shale

SELF FUNDED ACCOUNT

		IN	OUT	
BALANCE 06/03/23				£906.09
Contributions		£323.00		
RAMBLERS LUNCH			£799.00	
DONATION				
BAL AT 10/05/23				£430.09
LP £59.86				
ML £370.24				

FESTIVAL ACCOUNT

		IN	OUT	
BALANCE 06/03/23				£2,833.00
CRITICAL ART ALTERATIONS			£160.00	
BALANCE AT 10/05/23				£2,673.00

MAIN ACCOUNT

		IN	OUT	
BALANCE 06/03/23				£1,361.03
A SEARLE FUEL FOR STRIMMER			£13.40	
M M-W MILEAGE			£49.50	
RAMBLERS Q3 PAYMENT		£144.00		
BALANCE AT 10/05/23				£1,442.13
PENDING £70 FROM RAMBLERS WALKING HOLIDAYS				

Membership Secretary's report March 2023 – Andrew Swarbrick



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Current total membership is 481

Few new members since the last meeting and 13 have left. It appears that most leavers were relatively recent joiners, so have not renewed their membership after one year. The trend, however, is down a little – though it seems this may be consistent with the national picture too.

I will be away for part of June – this will probably coincide with the issue of the July – September programme. I am making arrangements with Lee for her to be able to send emails out to members during my absence. This will involve using a different – ad hoc - email account which Lee will also be able to access. I plan a trial run with this account nearer the time.

Walk Co-ordinator's Report – Deborah Quow

Attendance on walks (current programme)

The April to June walks programme is going well and numbers have been good on most of the walks. Walk leaders have all submitted a short feedback email to me with numbers attended on each walk. Up until 18 May out of 16 walks, there were 4 walks where 20 or more attended, 8 where 10 – 19 attended and 4 where less than 10 attended.

Attendees No of walks

20+	=	4
10+	=	12
-10	=	4

Walk leaders' forum update

Name	Update (May 2023)
Valerie Pearce	Already planned and agreed to lead 10 mile walk from Selling with Kim on Thursday 14 September
Ian Loftus	Already led two walks, planning third for the walking week
Bernadette Facey	No response as yet
Kim Pye	Already led one walk. Planned and agreed to lead 10 mile walk from Selling with Val on Thursday 14 September
Tony McNamara	No response as yet
Dale Moorhouse	Already planned one walk from St Anselm's School, Canterbury for 10 Sunday September and reced'd it twice with Lee



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Julie Scott	Planned and agreed to lead a walk one Sunday in August with Ufuk
Ufuk Ozaktanlar	Planned and agreed to lead a walk one Sunday in August with Julie
Robert Stearn	Already agreed to lead a walk in September and also for the walking week
Pam Brio	May put on hold due to other commitments
Jerry Swallow	May put on hold due to other commitments

New Walks Manager system at Ramblers

As the key contact at WCR in my role as walks co-ordinator to support the move from GWEM to the new Walks Manager system, I attended the Ramblers Walks Manager Introductory webinar on Wednesday 12 April. This lasted one and a half hours and was led by Melanie Walker, Rebecca Birrane, Kate Davis and Gary Atkin.

They were hoping to launch the new website on 16 May after a month's transition, but it has now moved to 31 May.

The reasons for the new website are:

- to reach new walkers
- to be easier to use for volunteers
- to build for the future

A lot of time was spent showing us how to add individual walks to the system. For bulk uploads, it follows the same system as before i.e. using Excel spreadsheet initially then uploading as a csv file. (The spreadsheet has been modernised slightly and has more fields, not all of which you have to use).

I have had to republish walks from 16 May to the new website.

I am still finding my way around the new website, but it's looking good and much easier to use (when you know how). There is guidance and support in the forms of a WM guide, bitesize videos, drop-in sessions and the usual support from the walking experience team. It was pointed out that a history of walks will not be available – we will have to save them all in the transition period.

Walk leaders' update

A few weeks back I emailed all walk leaders to ask the following questions:

1. if they were available to lead a walk during the walking week (with suggested day, date and time)
2. whether they needed parts of a first aid kit/whole new first aid kit



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3. whether they needed a hi-viz vest
4. whether they were willing to support a new walk leader if asked
5. whether they still wanted to be kept on the walk leaders' database

Responses:

1. 7 volunteers
2. 4 + 4 for new WLs (Paul Verrall offered to return his)
3. 8 + 4 for new WLs
4. 6
5. 1 (Mary Cross opted out)

Walking week 17 – 23 July 2023

This has had a reasonable response and we have a draft timetable that covers every day, with two walks on one day. Draft timetable below.

Day/date	Time	Grid ref Postcode	Walk details	Miles (kms)	Grade	Contact
Monday 17 July 2023	09.00	TR351643 CT12 5JB	Cliffsend/Pegwell Bay Meet at Viking Ship Café car park. We will walk a quasi figure of 8 through the country park nature trail to Stonelees and back via the coastal path to Cliffsend, through the village and onto Chalk Hill, then down to the old hoverport and back up to the Viking Ship where we will have late breakfast/elevenses in the cafe.	5	Mod 2	Deborah
Tuesday 18 July 2023	10:00	TR351503 CT14 8JL	Ripple Meet and park, Church Farm, Ripple (Solley's Ice Cream Parlour). This route will be via Ripple Vale House and Sutton, before returning to Sutton via a different route. The route will then be towards Studdal before walking the ridge line along Sutton Hill where weather dependant there will be good views of Thanet and Deal	6.3 (10.3)	Mod 2	Dave R 07527 009171
	16:00		Leeds Castle Meet at Park Gate Inn and walk around Leeds Castle, with the option of booking in for dinner at 6.30pm.	5/6		Margaret M- W
Wednesday 19 July 2023	14:00	TR221609 CT3 4BA	Stodmarsh Meeting point is Stodmarsh Reserve car park, where there is a small voluntary charge for parking. There are toilets here. This is a figure of 8 walk. Those	11 (7 + 4)		John R P 07414 863194



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			wanting to do the second half of the walk only should start around 17:00. Opportunity to have a drink and/or meal in the Grove Ferry afterwards.			
Thursday 20 July 2023	14:00		Chatham Walk around St Mary's Island, Chatham with pub or chip shop at end of walk.	5		Margaret M-W
Friday 21 July 2023	14.00	TR125342 CT21 4NT	West Hythe Starting from West Hythe Car Park, a flat circular walk (with half a dozen or so stiles) to Burmarsh, Dymchurch and back. Parking is pay and display @ £1.60 per hour, however, there is free on street parking in Burmarsh Road, 0.6 miles east along the south bank of the canal. There will be a pub stop on route with further refreshments available at Unit 1 at the finish.	8.8 (14.2)	Mod 1	Robert Stearn 07894 443721
Saturday 22 July 2023	07.15	CT11 8AH	Ramsgate Park along Victoria Parade near King George VI Memorial Park in Ramsgate (intersection with Winterstoke Crescent) We will walk along the Viking Coastal Trail and cliff tops to Broadstairs Harbour then back along the beach at low tide to Ramsgate Harbour. Breakfast at Wetherspoons (Royal Victoria Pavilion) overlooking the beach then return to cars along the promenade and up the steps.	4.5		Val E-N
Sunday 23 July 2023	18.00	TR374453	St Margaret's Dover Patrol – Sea, Sundowners and White Cliffs Meet/park at the Dover Patrol Memorial for a leisurely evening stroll along the cliffs to Kingsdown, stop for a drink at the Zetland Arms and depart no later than 20.15 to catch the sunset at 20.54	4 (6.4)	Mod 2	Ian 07810 864311

Publicity Report May 2023 - Lee Pickup

We have 2 articles included in the South East Walker's June Issue.

One advertising Walking Week, the other highlighting our Walk Leaders' Forum.

Walking week is now advertised on the Kent Area website.

Looking for ideas for the September issue.

Our Facebook page is still growing with 400 members up from 388. The number of posts has risen since the last meeting with more members interacting.



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PROW NEWS –UPDATES – Roger King

I assume that members will have read my May PROW update on the website. This is an update on that article....

Footpath Volunteers' Day at Lenham, Saturday 13 May

This was

a success with some 30+ people attending. Interesting input from KCC, a Parish Council representative and the British Horse Society. Plus the attendees themselves!

Relationship between LFOs and PFOs discussed. LFOs do not (or want to) manage PFOs – that's the job of the local Group. Nothing that White Cliffs doesn't already do was really proposed. But agreed that informal dialogue between PFOs and the LFO for that parish would be beneficial.

Minor diversions of footpaths in Aylesham (EE291/291A, EE461/288)

More orders now proposed, including one specifically to clear up the mess left by Dover DC's flawed attempts at diversion orders in the 2010s. Mostly north of the village centre, all due to yet more housing development in what is rapidly becoming a town. Not really an issue for walkers like White Cliffs.

Temporary closure of bridleway ER233 from the main A258 through to the Blue Pigeons Farm, Worth – the beaver issue

Discussed at Lenham.

Clearly KCC had not faced such an issue before. Apparently more beavers – and more holes? – than first thought. Natural England, Environment Agency etc all involved. Surveys being carried out etc. Unfortunately I don't think this closure will be lifted soon.

Order now made to upgrade footpaths south of the old Bishopsbourne station to bridleways

I can't see

anyone overturning another Hugh Craddock claim, and really the upgrading proposal from Bishopbourne railway station bridge up towards woodland and then as far south as Pheasant's Hall (1.25 miles along CB289/291) isn't that contentious.

But upgrading the section of CB295 from the end of Park Lane (by the "Mermaid") up to the point at which the path turns west out of the sunken lane, creates a bridleway cul-de-sac and thus a turning point at which it would be difficult to manoeuvre a horse??

Future of Hythe seafront development?

You

will no doubt be aware of the proposal for a major development at Princes Parade, on the seaward side of the Royal Military Canal (Saxon Shore Way). And that controversy has raged locally, with no real work done as yet, not least because of the local District Council's financial situation. Now, with Council Leader and chief proponent David Monk ousted by the electorate, leaving the Greens as marginally the largest party, will it still take place.



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Vegetation Clearance Report – John Shale

DATE	PATH NUMBER	LOCATION	SLASHERS	MAN HRS TOTAL	REPORT	KCC	REPORT
05/01/2023	TE9 & TE11	MANSTON	DG	2	DG	NIL	JS
	(TE8 TREE)	MONKTON	N/A			NIL	
	TE18	MONKTON	AS JT	2	AS	NIL	JS
12/01/2023	NIL	#	#	#	#	#	#
19/01/2023	PERMISSIVE PATH	CAPEL LE FERNE	DG AS ST	7.5	AS	NIL	JS
26/01/2023	ER205/1	CHURCH HOUGHAM	AS DG	4	AS	NIL	JS
02/02/2023	HE67	BLADBEAN	JP ST AS	1	AS ALREADY DONE		N/A
"	EE90	ASH	JT LP JS GW	2	JT	NIL	JS
09/02/2023	EE60/1	ASH	ST AS	3	AS	NIL	JS
	EE63A	ASH	"		"	NIL	JS
	EE317/A	NONINGTON	LP JT	2	LP/JT	NIL	JS
16/02/2023	ER14	RINGWOULD	AS ST DG	6	AS	NIL	JS, AS
23/02/2023	ER177/8	ALKHAM	JP AS DG ST	7	AS/JP	NIL	JS, AS
02/03/2023	TE27/1	PLUCKS GUTTER	DG	2	DG	NIL	JS
	TE37	MINSTER	ST AS JT	4.5	AS	NIL	JS
09/03/2023	NIL	ADVERSE WEATHER					
16/03/2023	EE195	COOMBE	JT, DG	1	JT	NIL	JS
	EE429	MARTIN	JP, AS, LP AS JP LP	4.5	AS/JP/LP	NIL	JS
23/03/2023	ER9	KINGSDOWN	ST	8	JP LP	NIL	JS



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DATE	PATH NUMBER	LOCATION	SLASHERS	MAN HOURS	REPORT	KCC	REPORT
30/03/2023	HE206/203	CAPEL	JT ST AS	4.5	JT/AS	NIL	JS
06/04/2023	ER182	TEMPLE EWELL	AS DG ST	4	AS	NIL	JS
13/04/2023		ELHAM	JP ST AS	3	AS/JP	NIL	JS
20/04/2023	ER182/4	TEMPLE EWELL	JT DG ST	6	JT	NIL	JS
27/04/2023	NIL WORK TO DO						
04/05/2023	EE478	EASTRY	AS,JP, JT	5	JP/AS	NIL	JS
10/05/2023	EE269/A	GOODNESTONE	DG,JT,ST				
TOTAL				22.5			

Parish Footpath Observers (PFO) Coordinators Report - Margaret Milsted-Williamson.

There are 53 parishes within our patch and since this time last year I have been trying to fill them all with willing volunteers. Until very recently 39 had been filled. Unfortunately, one person who had responsibility for 12 parishes recently resigned. To date I have managed to recruit quite a few more volunteers.

The 2nd meeting for PFOs took place on 24th March at the Duke of Cumberland, and Heather Waller joined us. Heather is the Public Footpath Officer at KCC covering Dover and Thanet.

Social Secretary Report - Anne Hickey

We had our Annual Lunch at the Rising Sun, Stourmouth on 2nd April this year and from the feedback, it was enjoyed. Thinking forward, it would be good to put a date in the diary for the following year as we always used to do, so everyone gets more notice. So, if we go for the 1st Sunday in March, that would be Sunday 3rd for everyone to keep in mind who is interested in walking and having a celebratory meal together. I suggest we revert to putting on a walk beforehand, as we used to do. A venue could be the Rising Sun again as it does very well, and there are walks around there we could do.



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You may have seen the notice that Andrew has just put out. This tells you of the Skittles games on Friday 23rd June, Venue: The Chance at Guston, start 6.30, buffet at 7.30 then resume games. Buffet: £7.00 a head. Would be good to see lots of people, a bit of fun & exercise! Let me know by 16th June please so the pub has numbers for catering.

The pub quiz will take place Friday 29th September at the 5 Bells, Eastry, 6.30pm start.. We don't pay for hire of the room if we have a meal there. Mary, the landlady, is very accommodating. Please let me know a week beforehand if you are coming. Our redoubtable Quiz Master will be Colin Hodges, ably assisted by Rhona. Prizes to be won.

Other suggestions: 10 Pin Bowling, Boules, Sandwich Bay trip to see the seals, or one of the Whitstable boat trips, Theatre trip to local venue like the Marlow, Canterbury. We could discuss, including any other suggestions members have.