

HARROGATE RAMBLING CLUB

President's Newsletter

New Year 2023

Well, despite the experiences of the last three years, I will persist and wish you a healthy and fulfilled new year (I hesitate to say things can only get better). Am I the first president to experience three prime ministers, and counting, during eighteen months in office? Fortunately for us it was only Covid that affected our walking, bad enough as that was, and we have had a pretty full programme for a couple of years now. We have now been able to enjoy our second Christmas rambles since we restarted our walks. I apologise that this Christmas ramble photo is again of the C group, but no other groups have sent me any photos.



(Photo, courtesy of Ray, who says it is a bit blurred, but that does iron out the wrinkles!)

I am aware that the B+ and B groups had a hearty dinner after their walk at The Bridge outside Pateley Bridge, which Stan organised with his usual meticulous efficiency. Members of the D group joined the C group in a lovely and warm Hunsingore Village Hall, where we started with mulled wine before our trek through the local countryside. Ray and Suzanne did a wonderful job of organising it all and everybody brought stacks of food so there was plenty for all (including me who had left mine in the fridge). I'm afraid I don't know what the A and E groups did, but I would like to learn.

After much tedious work and dreary bank visiting by our past and present treasurers, we have at last managed to move the club account to Lloyds from an utterly unhelpful HSBC. This does mean that annual subscriptions which are due on March 1st need to go into our new Lloyds account, the details of which will be sent to you shortly by email, and don't forget to cancel standing orders or direct debits to our previous HSBC account.

Now some dates for your diary; Friday 20th January from 7.00pm is the next date for a social evening with pizza potential at Starlings bar in Harrogate, once again organised by Stan. As

always all are welcome. On Wednesday 17th May Stan is arranging a coach trip to the Peak District with a meal. Stan is busy sorting out walk leaders and co-ordinating start and finish times and places, quite a logistic challenge. Details will appear in the next programme, so look forward to a Peak day out. Wednesday 2nd August will be the summer social, kindly organised by Rod Carpenter (I'm sure Shirley will also be working away in the background), based around Grassington, where we will be booked for a meal. It would be very helpful if walk leaders could organise those days' walks near the venue. The post ramble meals are very popular so it may be wise to let the organiser know as soon as the menus are published in the next programme booklet whether you intend to be there. Please put those dates in your diaries now and look out for further details in the next programme booklet

The 2023 Annual General Meeting will be held at Oatlands Club, Hookstone Avenue, Harrogate on Thursday 19th October where we met last year. We meet at 7.00pm at the bar for the meeting to start at 7.30 and there will be a finger buffet after the meeting.

The committee have been concerned, as have a number of members about the amount of money the club has in its account. We calculate that we should probably donate around £4,000.00 to organisations associated with our walking activities and we wanted to look more closely at supporting organisations that improve and maintain footpaths, so please have a think, and let any member of the committee know of any suggestions, which we can investigate and then discuss at the AGM.

We have had a rather wet start to the year on walking days where waterproof gear has been essential to avoid abject misery! After last summer's drought it seems a bit mean, but some dry walks would be nice, which we all can enjoy.

With all the best for 2023.

Greg Richardson