

HARROGATE RAMBLING CLUB

President's Newsletter

Summer 2024

Attempted Murder at Dobrudden caravan park is not what you expect, just after you have walked past it. But that is what happened three days after the C group went past on what was one of the first dry walking days of 2024. A woman is to appear in court next year charged with attempted murder and five months of abuse of the victim. Enough of salacious headlines, the walk was a lovely trip to Saltaire with a wonderful guide in the form of our leader, followed by a woodland climb back past the scene of the forthcoming crime.



We have at last had some dry walks, but I cancelled mine on June 22nd because of the danger of flooding. Bit of a tricky decision, but in view of the weather warnings, as the leader I did not want members to travel 50 miles, if they could get through, or then not be able to get back. Some folk may consider all walks should go ahead but the leader has a responsibility to look after the safety and welfare of walkers. Disregarding such issues may be regarded as negligent, not to mention the sense of responsibility the leader would feel if something untoward happened to a member of their group. Oh dear I can hear insurance and 'elth and safety issue speak coming on, if it hasn't already. So, it is worth repeating that those who come on walks are fully responsible for their own insurance, health and safety.

On the social side we had a very convivial evening at Starling on May 17th, of which I remember little other than the pleasure of the company, well the beer and pizzas are good. The next one is Friday 26th July; hope to see you there.

Sorry, no free trips to the Great Yorkshire Show this year as we didn't seem to accrue more members as a result. Instead, John Hopkins and Sue Marriot entered the secure portals of Menwith Hill for their Health and Well-being Fair on May 22nd to encourage some of the community who work there to come on our walks. Regarding membership, we dropped below 300 to 283 for the first time I can remember. What was a bit worrying was that the majority who have not renewed (20 out of 38) joined since January 2021, so I wonder why people aren't staying.

I hope the lack of support for E group walks and Sunday C/D walks have not contributed to this exodus. Ann Dickinson has done a sterling job at keeping the E walks going over the years, but the few members that join her have slowly dwindled. The committee would be grateful to hear from those who only feel able to walk two or three miles in sociable company, as we would love to reinstate the E walks. Similarly with the Sunday C/D walks, in the last programme there were only two Sunday C/D walks led by Jean Mills and Sylvia Bowden and they certainly can't be expected to lead every week. Many members like to devote Sundays to families, but again if we had a core of walkers who wanted to do something less than a B walk on Sundays it would be great to hear from you. The walk archive is now available on the website (password protected) thanks to the hard work of John Hopkins, Julia Riddington and Jonathan Marriott and provides inspiration for current and potential walk leaders with walkers' block.

In relation to the club's finances, we have heard from the Yorkshire Dales National Park that the boardwalk in Swaledale we are helping fund is virtually complete. We should have some pictures to display at the AGM. To further advertise the club Laura Buckley (well actually her daughter Tessa) has prepared a two-sided poster, which could be used for publicity at libraries and other locations. Currently, libraries are sent copies of the walks booklet. As this contains private information, from now on only posters will be made available to them.

What is getting a lot of support is David Riley's coach ramble to Whitby on September 11th. With an a B+ walk, a B walk a C walk and a D walk being laid on, it is not surprising seats are going fast. If you want one of the last ones, email David Riley, details in the latest programme.

Sadly, I have just heard of the death of Tom Snelling, a member of the club for many years whose enthusiasm and universal friendliness made joining him on walks an absolute pleasure. We will miss him at the AGM to which he always contributed positively, and I shall miss a face it was always a pleasure to bump into.

Lastly, another reminder about the AGM on Thursday 17th October 2024 at the Oatlands Club on Hookstone Road (same as last year) at 7.00pm, meet at 6.30 for a drink. The club intend to provide a free buffet at the AGM, which will hopefully make for an enjoyable evening, but you will have to pay your own bar bills.

Greg Richardson