

Dear Rugby Group Members,

Small steps from Boris, giant leaps for Rugby Ramblers, with our organised walks springing into life with full bookings. Thank you to our early bird venturers into Lutterworth, Bubbenhall and territories beyond. With support from Vale and Roland we had an extensive April Programme on our website, with more to follow through May.

New Members: Welcome all. We look forward to meeting you. Please do let us know your preferences for walk days, length (miles/km), previous experiences ... it all helps with planning.



As lockdown eases further we may look forward to car-sharing and travel further afield for more exotic walks. We will continue to welcome offers from members to lead walks through June and beyond; a problem for our group though is that without a Programme Secretary to co-ordinate offers we may see less diversity, and disappointment for many. Wednesday walks of 3-5 miles have been especially popular over the years - we would hate to lose continuity here. Change can lead to opportunity and a different way of doing things. Sadly, **we do not have**

another 'Vale' waiting in the wings – in order to grow/survive we need your help and ideas - Is a 'Walks Sub-committee' preferred, or would that be too cumbersome?

Walks are initially advertised on Rugby Ramblers' own website (Login wk04) with access to all items including 'risk assessment*' form together with a Booking system while we are still under Covid-19 restrictions. So far we have managed this through website updates, e-mails and phone calls, frequently with a waiting list for a particular walk. (If needing to cancel a booking please let the leader know in good time to offer the place to another member). The Meeting Place will continue to be the Start point of the walk.

Full details of Covid-secure guidance for both leaders and walkers can be explored on Ramblers website [www.ramblers.org.uk]. It is a Ramblers' requirement that we as a group, register our Walk Leaders as Volunteers, for insurance purposes. In common with all organised sports activities, a risk assessment* must also be carried out, recorded, and retained for 12 months. We have support,



advice and resources available for all our leaders. In summary, 'Opportunity Knocks' for a surge of active participation in Rugby Group's activities – Path Maintenance, Walk Leaders and Committee



Members ... with 'Vacancies' for a Programme Secretary (or secretaries), Publicity Officer etc. All offer a chance to feel involved in making a valued contribution to the group. Please don't take what we have for granted - this is your group, to move into post covid walking, your help is need

David Shaw - Acting Chairperson



IOW 2022 - HF Spring Break

Third time lucky ... With little trouble and a lot of stoicism, this year's proposed spring break has been postponed until 26th April 2022. With all places taken, but another wait of twelve months before departure, we always welcome names to go onto the waiting list (without obligation).



Navigation Course - May 2021

Unfortunately this event has been cancelled until further notice.

June Fotheringhame

One of our much-loved members, June Fotheringhame, passed away on February 8th aged 90. She joined Rugby Ramblers in 1989, led her first 'A' walk in 1991 and her final 'C+' walk in 2007. I believe that she was still walking with us in 2019, and on Dunchurch Health Walks until quite recently, when her sight and hearing deteriorated. Graham Bevan recalls *'Even in her 80's, June was usually walking at the front of our group, whilst telling the walk leader that he was going "too slow". June always maintained that she could not walk slowly!'*

Vale



On one of the very few occasions I met June, she was approaching her 80th birthday. Her son had organised a complete tour of New Zealand for her, booking flights, accommodation, hire car and itinerary telling her that at her stage of life, 'experiences are far more valuable than material things'. Off she went, on her own, without any fear whatsoever, and returned to tell me later of all her adventures. I have never forgotten those sage words.

Judy

Judy Blagden

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
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