

Lockdown News 3rd July

Your Committee

While we are still in a degree of lockdown and unable to start group walks yet, it is a good time to start thinking about the future. In November we will be having our AGM and quite a few members of our Committee will be resigning then owing to having completed their three year terms of office.

Being on the Committee is a great way of contributing to our group, it is fun to work in a team, and it means that you get to know many more people. If you have been a member for a long time please consider stepping up and 'doing your bit', but also if you are a new member it is fabulous to have new blood and new ideas and as I have said, you will really get to know people.

The roles that are available are these:

Chair
Walks Co-ordinator
Publicity Officer

There are two other roles that are available where we do have volunteers to take over, but they are of course elected roles and if you are interested you are welcome to apply:

Membership Secretary
Secretary

Finally, there are a couple of non-committee openings available. Adam W has been our assistant webmaster for many years and thinks it would be a good time to hand over to someone else. In addition, it would be good to have someone who would take responsibility for posting items on Facebook and perhaps also deal with other social media on our behalf.

Now would be a great time to express your interest as for the next couple of months you could 'shadow' the person who is due to leave the role. If you are interested, please contact me at: [HERE](#)
I hope we hear from some of you.

Judy Brua – Chair (for the time being!)

Walking with others

Last week we said that if you wanted to walk with others on a private basis, to contact Sue H through our website contact page to register your interest and she would put you in touch with anyone else who wanted to do so. A few people have done so and we would again remind you that you can do this.

Insurance

If you are a volunteer in any capacity within East Surrey Walkers, you are covered by Ramblers' insurance in certain circumstances. This could be of considerable benefit if, for example, you were leading a walk and fell and broke your leg. BUT to obtain this personal accident insurance you must be registered on the Ramblers' Assemble website. We've mentioned this before but if you haven't checked if you are registered, please just go to their main website, then Volunteer Zone, and half way down on the right you will see reference to Assemble.

A Message from the Surrey Area Walk Leaders Training Team

Would you like to participate in an online navigation course specially devised for members of Surrey Area? A course in August 2020 is now available for booking.

We in the Walk leaders training team have been working hard to see how we can adapt the walk leaders training course to our lockdown world. We have devised an online navigation course covering map and compass skills, and digital aids, along with tips about walking safely. The course is split over two modules, each 2 hours in length, with some brief assignments to reinforce learning between modules.

We delivered it using Zoom for the first time in June; and a second course is ongoing. The feedback so far has been very positive, for example: "I had never used an OS map or compass before and found it fascinating and useful. I'm looking forward to trying different routes in my area armed with local OS map and compass. The course has given me more confidence to lead walks for my group in the future." "I thought it was a brilliant course and I learned a lot. A lot of hard work obviously went into preparing it." "Well done on using the various Zoom features that added to the course." "I learned a lot, and also consolidated things which I sort of knew but wasn't sure if I actually did!"

With the easing of Covid-19 restrictions there is more opportunity to put the theory learnt on the course into practice by walking with a mentor from your Group or with a few friends. We believe these navigation skills are invaluable in enabling you to walk more safely on your own, to become more confident in finding less heavily frequented routes, and to become able to lead a small group of friends on a walk. In time, as further Ramblers Group activities become possible, we hope you will feel better equipped to lead such walks for your Group.

We are now inviting applicants to a third online navigation course to be held over two Wednesday mornings, on 12th & 26th August.

If you are interested, please contact your local Group in the first instance, and then email [HERE](#) by 31st July with your contact details, Ramblers membership number, and Group affiliation.

You will be asked to have a particular map (OS Explorer 146), a working compass, reasonable internet, a laptop (or desktop) with a good-sized screen and video camera, and some familiarity with Zoom video-conferencing.

Fiona Spencer

On behalf of the Surrey Area Walk Leaders Training Team