



## NOTICE BOARD – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### HIGH WEALD WALKING FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 2020

Instead of organising guided group walks in the current situation, the High Weald Walking Festival September 2020 is offering fifty great self guided walks. The walks range from one mile to ten, based in East and West Sussex and Kent and are chosen by local walking groups (Battle Ramblers, High Weald Walkers, Mid-Sussex Ramblers, Rother Ramblers) and the High Weald AONB team, showcasing the magnificent features of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Full details can be obtained from their website [HERE](#)

### CHANGES TO MEETING LIMITS

The latest changes to meeting limits announced on Tuesday and scheduled to take effect from Monday led me to believe our walks were under threat.

However the good news is that Ramblers have established that as our walks are ‘outdoor physical activity events’ they are exempt from the ruling. So we can go ahead with our programme.

### RULE OF SIX

I am **SO** pleased that the government guidelines have given ‘outdoor physical activity events’ an exemption from the Rule of Six. Therefore our re-started group walks programme can continue. You cannot walk as a private group of more than 6, but our official group walks may have up to 30 walkers.

This is the guidance on the Ramblers’ website:

**As of 24 August 2020:** *all Ramblers activities can resume in England, Scotland and Wales – including group walks up to a maximum of 30 people. Please follow the latest advice (including any local restrictions in your area), and practise physical distancing.*

**England:** *Please note that as organised ‘outdoor physical activity events’, Ramblers and Walking for Health group walks are **exempt** from the restrictions on social gatherings, known as the ‘rule of six’ in England (from 14 September).*

So please look at our walks programme, details below.

### SUMMER PICNIC

The Summer Picnic was a great success on Sunday, with 11 members going for a 6 mile walk first and then a total of 21 people joining the picnic in Christine S’s garden. We were

wonderfully spaced out in a big circle in the garden, and were able to wander around and chat to other picnic-ers to socialise at a proper distance.

And on the walk, Kate R even spotted an Emu – who knew there was one in Surrey?



### **ASSISTANT WEBMASTERS**

A few months ago our current Assistant Webmaster Adam W said he felt it was time for him to retire and we asked for volunteers to replace him. I'm pleased to say that we had two highly qualified people volunteer and they have now been trained up by Adam. They are Karen F and Carolyn S and they will make a huge contribution to our group – their work will be on our website, on our Noticeboards, possibly on social media and various other behind-the-scenes tasks. You may not be aware of the work that they will carry out, but they are vital to our communications.

We repeat our previous thanks and deep gratitude to Adam for all the work he did over many years in the job.

### **WALKS PROGRAMME**

I can't believe that we actually have a walk **EVERY** DAY next week! Remember that you need to book in, and if you are joining a walk, please re-read the notes at the bottom of this noticeboard. Here are the walks:

Saturday 12 September – 6 miles at Ashdown Forest. Details [HERE](#).

Sunday 13 September – 9 miles at Cudham/Knockholt. Details [HERE](#).

Monday 14 September – 3 mile amble at Old Oxted. Details [HERE](#).

Tuesday 15 September – 3.5 mile **Fast Fitness Workout Walk** at Riddlesdown. Details [HERE](#).

Wednesday 16 September – 5.5 mile walk at Godstone. Details [HERE](#).

Thursday 17 September – 5.5 mile walk at Marsh Green. Details [HERE](#).

Friday 18 September – 5 mile walk at Westerham. Details [HERE](#).

### **Notes regarding participation in organised walks**

Our leaders are having to complete risk assessments for each of their walks, and some of the risks of course relate to Covid-19. To save our leaders having to repeat messages at the beginning of the walk, could you please note the following points:

- You may only join the walk if you have pre-booked with the leader. You will be turned away if you have not booked;
- If possible, please do not share transport to the start of the walk;
- Please maintain social distancing while on the walk. At any stiles or kissing gates, please touch them as little as possible and keep your distance from the person ahead of you;
- Please carry and use your own hand sanitiser. You may want to carry a face mask in case of any incident, but you do not need to wear it while walking;
- Do not share drink, food or equipment.

We have all become used to these restrictions in our own lives over the past months, so hopefully it will not be an onerous task for us to comply with them on our group walks. I'm looking forward to walking with everyone.

**Judy Brua - Chair**



**WALKING FOR PLEASURE**