



Kenwood House Christmas lights

Merry Christmas to all our members

We have reached the end of another year in which we finally managed to get back to a “normal” rambling schedule, after the disruption of the last two years. Many thanks to all the leaders who led us on some lovely walks throughout the year, including during the blisteringly hot months of summer – a distant memory, now that we are shivering in minus degrees Celsius!

2022 Round up

We did a few more sections of the London LOOP, and I am determined that we shall finish this in the coming year. We have now reached Chigwell, and only have 4 more sections to complete, one of which we have already done, but it might be worth repeating. Any ideas for another project? I know there has been mention of doing the Thames Path, which will hopefully not take us as long as the LOOP has to complete! Would there be any interest in this? Any other suggestions are more than welcome, as are new leaders to lead walks.

We also had walks around Hemel Hempstead, the Ashridge Estate, Guildford, Sole Street and Dorking, so we covered quite a few areas and had many lovely views to enjoy, as well as some nice pub meals.

We finally managed to get our two holidays at the third attempt of trying. Dave Heath organised a weekend away in the Isle of Wight, for our delayed 70th anniversary celebrations. Those eagle eyed among you will have spotted the change of venue from Lulworth to the Isle of Wight, owing to HF Holidays deciding to sell their property in Lulworth, just before we were due to go. Luckily most people were able to come to the Isle of Wight, where we had a great time. Dave and Bob Tolson led us on two walks, the first of which was in beautiful sunshine up to Tennyson Down, and the second was a bit damper, but equally enjoyable. In the evenings we had a video featuring photos of past holidays which brought back many memories for the older members of the group, a quiz, and a murder mystery evening, brilliantly scripted by Liz Ramsden. This kept everyone amused during the evenings. Many thanks to all those who helped to make the weekend such a success.

In June we went for a week to the Cotswold village of Winchcombe, organised by Paula Cowin, where we stayed in the cottages on the Sudeley Castle estate. We had beautiful weather and managed some great walks in the surrounding countryside. The advantage of staying in Winchcombe is that all the walks could be undertaken straight from where we were staying without having to take any transport. Thanks to Dave Heath and Valerie Simmonds for leading two of the walks. Some of us also managed a trip on the Gloucester and Warwickshire steam railway, which was great fun. We also had a barbecue one evening, and finished the week with a meal in the White Hart pub.



View from Cleeve Common, near Winchcombe

In July, John and Liz Ramsden organised an evening trip to the Superbloom at the Tower of London to see the wildflowers that had been planted in the moat. It was lovely to wander around through the flowers on a beautiful warm evening. John and Dave couldn't resist the opportunity to arrive at the moat in style!



Also, in July we had our annual barbecue, hosted once again by John and Liz Ramsden in their lovely garden. Many thanks John and Liz for a wonderful event.

At the end of the year Rosalind Stevens organised a very interesting walk around Guildford, through the castle grounds and along the river, before a lovely Christmas meal at the Britannia Inn, where the food was delicious and the service and staff first class. A great choice of venue. Many thanks Rosalind for your efforts on our behalf. Everyone had a great time.

To round off the year, some of us went to see the Christmas lights at Kenwood House. We had a few issues getting there, including the leader (me!) who had the tickets and was very late to the start. Apologies for keeping you all waiting in the freezing cold! It had snowed the night before, so the trail was magical with snow on the ground and on the tree branches.



Future Holidays

In April 2023 some of us are going for a week to Sicily, on a walking/sightseeing trip to the areas that featured in the tv series “Inspector Montalbano”. This is with Adagio holidays.

We hope to have an autumn weekend away in the UK, so watch out for more details in the new year.

Dave Heath is also suggesting for 2024 a Ramblers Holiday which he has found to Malta and Gozo.

More details can be found on their website here:

<https://www.ramblersholidays.co.uk/europe/malta/malta-and-amp-gozo>

There are no dates showing for 2024 yet, but it is anticipated that we would go in Spring, when hopefully we might see some lovely wildflowers. Dave Heath will provide more details when they become available in the new year. Keep an eye out for the email if you are interested in going.

Walks in 2023

The new walks calendar will be available shortly on Mudweb. The log in is beebrambler and password gaiters. If anyone would like to volunteer to lead a walk from April onwards, please let Paula Cowin know.

The first walk of the New Year, will now be on Saturday 14th January 2023, as the RMT have kindly arranged a strike for the original date of the 7th. An email giving details of the walk will be sent out shortly.

I hope you all have a great festive season, and look forward to seeing you out on some walks next year.

Best wishes

Paula

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