

EXETER RAMBLING CLUB

(Affiliated to the Ramblers Association)

Web Address: www.pollards.eclipse.co.uk/exeterramblingclub/index.html

NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2009

We start our new year with 50 paid up members and two life members. It was agreed at the AGM that Rosemary Buchan be offered Life Membership, which she has accepted. Welcome to Judy Vallance and Ruth Chappell. We hope you enjoy many pleasurable walks with us. It is noteworthy that nearly all our recent enquiries/new members are a direct result of our web site.

NEWS FROM THE AGM

We had a very enjoyable AGM this year although still only about one third of members attended. Nevertheless the different order of events worked well and our speaker was a great success. Thanks to Ivan and Sue Godfrey who gave the interesting talk about Iceland. We also raised £65 for Hospicecare through our personal donations on the day, a donation from Club funds and sale of books at the AGM. Many thanks to all. Pam Belcher has chosen to step down from the Committee. Gill Peart was voted on to take her place. One main piece of news is that subs have now been increased to **£5 for a single person and £8 for two people living at the same address**. Those who have not yet paid will find an enclosed reminder slip. Pete our Treasurer would welcome subs either in person when you are out walking, or by post to the usual address of 7 St Anne's Place, Silverton EX5 4NH. Thank you. Anyone not paying by the time the next programme is published will be considered no longer a member.

FREEBIE!

Available – a large green rucksack, (thought to be Karrimoor and 35 ltr), with side pockets etc. All enquiries to Helen on 01392 464880.

CLUB SHORT BREAK

As mentioned at the AGM, I (Pat!) am willing to once again organise a Club break. In order to get our choice we must choose our location early. This has its advantage in that we have longer to save. The Committee will discuss this further next time so look out for news in July. Feedback we have received from members so far is that if we are to travel further a four night break rather than three would make this more worthwhile. Currently the Lake District is being considered and we are looking towards July 2010 (a similar time of year to our visit to Brecon and the Cotswolds). This doesn't clash with school holidays and shouldn't coincide with the time of year other friends in the club get together for a holiday. We shall be investigating HF Holidays and Ramblers UK (Countrywide) to see which company offers the best value for money together with a break that will accommodate varying level of walks.

NOTES FROM THE PROGRAMME

SUNDAY 3rd May walk. This walk is part of the Exmoor Walking Festival. We have 20 places booked and they are available on a first come first served basis. The walk starts at 11am, from Holnicote House so please be prompt arriving at Bamfylde Street beforehand. In addition to the walk you will get a chance to look around the house which was a former home of the Acland family and is currently used as an HF Holiday venue. There will be an opportunity for a cream tea after the walk. I (Pat again) have checked with the organizers and they confirm that this is free and all part of HF's hospitality for the Walking Festival. **Please telephone Pete & Pat on 01392 860490 to reserve your place, by Friday 1st May please. We will have to let the organisers know how many of our 20 places we are taking up so we will close the list at mid-day on Friday 1st.** Thank you.

SUNDAY 21st June walk. This will be our Edna Stewart Memorial Walks day with a cream tea included. If you recall, donations in lieu of Edna's funeral flowers were given by her family to our Club. Some of her family will be joining us. Note the differing start times from Bamfylde Street, depending on which walk (or neither) you wish to do. 9:30 for the two walks and 10:30 for the stroll around Princetown. We need numbers for catering purposes and to try and get an idea of how the transport situation will work out, so, again, **please telephone Pete & Pat on 01392 860490 to put your name down, even if you are intending to do the Princetown tour, by 15th JUNE please.** For the Princetown group there will be an opportunity to visit the Dartmoor Prison Museum which has recently be refurbished (current entrance fee £3). Unlike the Holnicote House walk there are no restrictions on how many Club members attend. We hope many who remember Edna will come along. Many thanks to Graham Williams for making all the arrangements for these two different walking days.

WE WILL REALLY MISS HIM WHEN HE'S GONE!

You will be very sorry to learn that, after eight years, Al Ward our Rambles Co-ordinator will step down from his Committee position after this current year. This means the Club has a serious vacancy and, clearly, **we will not be able to function if we cannot fill this position.** Please can any willing volunteers come forward. It would be preferable if you had access to a computer and were familiar with e-mailing etc. But if not we will manage some how – our first priority is to keep the Club going. There is no other Committee member who is willing to take on this role along with all the other work they do for the Club. All enquiries to Bill our Chairman on 01392 466240 or Al on 01392 833198. Many thanks.