

# FOOTNOTES

## NEWS SHEET OF EASTBOURNE RAMBLING CLUB

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SUMMER 2026

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### SECRETARY'S REPORT FOLLOWING THE A.G.M.

With 53 members present at our afternoon A.G.M., proceedings moved at a good pace.

As all the officers and committee were willing to stand again, except the independent examiner whose position remains vacant, as does the social secretary's.

The Treasurer, Linda Johnson, reported a healthy balance with the subscription remaining at £10.00 and a membership of 200.

Steve Holloway (Webmaster) outlined the changes needed to ensure the continued delivery of information to members, whether by the website or hard copy by post.

It was agreed that each walking group could have a WhatsApp set up for their section if they wished. Following the success of our New Years Day buffet at the Crown & Anchor pub, it was agreed we repeat this in 2027.

The meeting concluded at 3.15 pm and then it was refreshment time and a good chat.

GRAHAM THOMPSON

### **SUSSCRIPTION RENEWAL**

Those who haven't paid their Club subscription of £10.00 will find a reminder with this Club information, saying it needs to be paid by June as no further copies of Programmes/Footnotes will be sent.

GRAHAM THOMPSON

### **STROLLS COFFEE MORNINGS**

These prove popular at the Snug Café, the Trinity Centre, Trinity Place at 10.00 a.m. for about two hours, and will be on the following Fridays: 17<sup>th</sup> July, no August meeting (Airbourne) & 18<sup>th</sup> September.

GRAHAM THOMPSON

### **CAN YOU HELP?**

We require an independent examiner to review our accounts once a year before they are presented at the A.G.M. This means checking them over to see they are in order, so can you help? If so, let me know.

GRAHAM THOMPSON

### **DOWNLAND DELIGHT & AMERICAN SUPPER**

**WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2026**

With the long summer evenings, a countryside walk, culminating in an American Supper is something a little different. We meet at Beachy Head car park (by Toilets GR589957) at 6.15 p.m., when I will lead a 3-mile walk, finishing with supper.

What we do is bring enough food for one person, either savoury or sweet, then pool it and everyone takes what they fancy. There will be plates, bowls, cutlery and serviettes available. All the food can be left in the cars as we finish our walk back here. Remember to bring something to drink and perhaps a folding chair to sit on and an extra layer of clothing as it can get chilly later in the evening.

If you don't want to walk then join us at the car park about 7.30/7.45 for supper.

Do come along, as there is usually a good group of us. No booking needed and some years we have had the added bonus of some magnificent sunsets.

GRAHAM THOMPSON

## **MEMBERS WALKS**

On a winter walk, our route took us along a path between the railway line and shore on the route from Bexhill to Hastings. The Leisure Group had just settled down for our refreshment break in St. Leonards, when we were met by the Strolls group who had already had their break at Angie's beach hut. We all chatted for about 10 minutes; photos were taken and then each group set off in opposite directions to complete their walks.

I had heard that there are Dinosaur footprints visible near the low tide mark in Bexhill – the local Museum has excellent photos of these. Having selected a suitable day, a small group of members set off to hunt down these prints. We found one definite and one possible, but others had been covered by sand following three named storms. We may visit again later in the year and hope that the sand has been swept away.

**BOB JEFFERY**

## **WOOLBEDING GARDEN AWAITS YOUR DISCOVERY IN WEST SUSSEX**

**FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2026**

Set deep in West Sussex near Midhurst is the National Trust garden of Woolbeding, described as a horticultural haven bursting with colourful planting, a contemporary glasshouse and countryside views. We set out from opposite Lidl in Seaside at 8.30 a.m, The Avenue 8.45 a.m, and proceed to Polegate and Hailsham, picking up as per the booking form, before heading to Midhurst.

Here we stop for a morning refreshment break where historic streets offer many independent shops in a beautiful quintessential market town in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Midhurst has a fine museum with free entry, located in Knockhundred Market, Knockhundred Row, where a good Tea Rooms once was, which I frequented when in that part of Sussex in the Good Old Days.

Refreshed, our short scenic tour on our 28-seater coach takes us along narrow country lanes to Woodbeding Gardens.

On arrival, I have arranged a 15-minute introductory talk which I found on my visit in 2025 to be very informative. Then you start exploring the 26-acre gardens, discovering the Potager, Herb Garden, the Orangery and new modern glasshouses and Silk Route garden. Highlights include the William Pye water feature, Tulip Folly, Chinese Bridge, Gothic Summerhouse and Waterfall. Do wear suitable footwear for wandering around the gardens as they can be uneven in places. The big house is not open but All Hallows Church has beautiful stained-glass windows and original Saxon features. Time must be found for a visit to the café and shop. As you can see, a full day's coach outing, costing £32 for National Trust members and £44.60 for non-members, which covers coach fare, admission to Woolbeding Gardens and driver's gratuity. Booking opens on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June with payment and enclosed booking form to secure a place. Remember to book promptly as I can only use a 28-seater coach because of the narrow country lanes in the area.

Cheques payable to Eastbourne Rambling Club and sent to Graham Thompson. Payments by BACS to Eastbourne Rambling Club, Barclays Bank sort code 20-27-91 account 50353361 and marking the booking form with the date of payment and sending it to me.

This is a lovely area to visit and the gardens are a delight, as I found out on my visit in 2025.

GRAHAM THOMPSON

#### **KEEP UP TO DATE**

Make sure you register your email address with Steve Holloway at [sv.holloway@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sv.holloway@hotmail.co.uk) so that he can advise you of any changes to walks.

GRAHAM THOMPSON

#### **PHOTOS REQUIRED**

If you take photos on Club activities, you can always send them to Steve for possible inclusion on the web pages or actual photos sent to me to put in the Club Scrap Books, which have been going since the Club was formed in December 1937.

GRAHAM THOMPSON

### **BLUEBELLS, BLUEBELLS & MORE BLUEBELLS**

This was our visit to Hole Park at Rolvenden in April.

Under a dull misty start, the day got better with the sun giving us its presence by the afternoon. We first stopped off on our country drive at Tenterden in the heart of the Weald for refreshments and a wander along its broad High Street. Some viewed the interesting local museum, while I and others visited the Kent & East Sussex Heritage Railway for a spot of nostalgia.

Later, we all coached to Hole Park where Edward Barham, the owner, along with his wife, welcomed us to their garden.

With beautiful carpets of bluebells in Brick Kiln Wood, our winding and undulating path took us on a tour through them. Later, we enjoyed the formal picturesque gardens and the open-air swimming pool looked appealing now the sun was out. But the water was too cold! We all found the Coach House Tea Room for a sit and chat and had the family's two black labradors looking longingly for a few titbits.

In the stable yard stood the 1926 Rolls Royce which added that bit of class to the whole occasion. Yes, it was a lovely day out.

GRAHAM THOMPSON

### **FRIENDS OF THE SOUTH DOWNS**

For many years we have subscribed to the Friends of the South Downs, formerly known as The Sussex Downsmen as they are an independent organisation protecting the South Downs. They have been honoured with Queen Camilla becoming a Patron of the Friends as she has close connections with a Sussex family home in Plumpton. She was baptised at St. Peter's Church in Firle, and went to a co-ed school in Ditchling.

GRAHAM THOMPSON

### **KING CHARLES III ENGLAND COAST PATH**

With this new long-distance walking path of 2,700 miles, opened in March 2026 by the King on our coastline overlooking the Cuckmere Haven and Seven Sisters, what a wonderful backdrop on such an auspicious occasion.

GRAHAM THOMPSON

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July – American Supper – see Summer Footnotes

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July – Summer holiday – Highlights of West Norfolk.

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August – Woolbeding Gardens awaits your discovery in West Sussex – see Summer Footnotes

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas lunch at the Hydro Hotel – see Autumn Footnotes.

### 2027

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January – New Year's Day Celebration Buffet at the Brown & Anchor – see Autumn Footnotes.

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June – Weymouth and Picturesque Dorset – see Autumn Footnotes.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome the following to the Rambling Club:

Debbie Dowle

Beryl Sharps

Sandra Fortescue

*All items for the Autumn Footnotes to be submitted to the editor by Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2026.*

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