



BEACHY HEAD RAMBLERS

Newsletter

November / December 2019

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's Beachy Head Ramblers AGM will take place on Sunday 3rd November in East Dean Village Hall, with refreshments at 1.30pm followed by the official business of the AGM at 2.00pm. All members should by now have received an email or letter containing the Meeting Agenda and last year's Minutes. Any member wishing to raise a matter under "any other urgent business" should contact BHR Secretary Elaine Saunders by no later than Sunday 27th October. esaunders21@hotmail.co.uk

Following the official business Jackie Ferguson will give an illustrated talk on her and Geoff's recent round-the-world cruise. Lucie will be leading the pre-meeting walk, starting at East Dean car park at 10am and returning in time for the refreshments at 1.30.

Please do try to come along and support Jackie, Lucie and your BHR Committee.

LEWES BONFIRE WALK - CHANGE OF START TIME



The start time of this walk will now be later than advertised in the last newsletter. We will now meet on Tuesday 5th November at 7.30pm in Glynde village car park for the walk to Cliffe Hill to watch the firework displays. The fireworks are due to start around 9pm with the final display about 10.30, although experience has shown these times to be flexible!

Wrap up warm, bring a torch, hot drinks and something to sit on. Please let David know if you are going on the walk so that he knows how many to expect. dfry.architects@gmail.com

BHR HOLIDAYS - UPDATES

It seems that members need to be quick off the blocks these days if they want to go on BHR holidays: Following the announcement of next summer's Devon holiday in the last newsletter it is now fully booked! Numbers have been restricted to a manageable level of 20, and there is now only a reserve list in case anyone drops out. Booking is also now closed for the Coast-to-Coast walk taking place in September 2020.

So, be very quick off the mark if you would like to take part in a new one-week trip now being planned to the Lake District from Monday 20th to Monday 27th April 2020. This will be for a small group of no more than 10 and is expected to include some rigorous walking. In the event of bad weather it could be challenging, but If you're up for the challenge contact David at dfry.architects@gmail.com

WALKING LONDON'S BRIDGES



This new addition to the BHR calendar will take place on Saturday 14th December. Starting from Kew Bridge the walk will follow the river and then cross the next bridge and carry on crossing bridges until Tower Bridge is reached. It is level walking on paved surfaces and involves crossing a total of 21 bridges and walking about 17 miles. If you don't want to do the whole route you can drop out at almost any point along the way and catch a bus or tube. If you wish, you can re-join the group at Tower Bridge for a meal or maybe some street food. It will be early evening by the end of the walk and the bridges and embankments will be lit by festive lights.

Meet at Kew Bridge railway station at 10.30am and please let David know you are coming so that he has an idea of numbers. dfry.architects@gmail.com

- ❖ *Kew Bridge railway station can be reached from Eastbourne by changing at Clapham Junction. At the time of writing the 8.25 from Eastbourne will get you to Kew Bridge at 10.20, but please check timetables before travelling. A one-day Travelcard will cover all your transport costs on the day including bus and tube.*

BHR CHRISTMAS LUNCH

This year's Christmas lunch will be on Wednesday 11th December at the Berwick Inn.

Once again organised by Bob Breakey, the lunch will be at 1.30pm and will be preceded by a walk starting at 10.00am from the pub's car park. (BN26 6SZ / TQ526067)

Please email Bob at bob.breakey@sky.com to book your places, and then let him have your menu choices together with a deposit of £10.00 per person by no later than Friday 29th November.

You can select either a two-course or three-course option from the adjacent menu, which includes both vegan and gluten-free options.

Santa hats are optional.

THE BERWICK INN
FREE HOUSE • PUB • CAFÉ • DINING

CHRISTMAS MENU
2 courses £21.95 3 courses £24.95 Monday-Thursday

STARTERS

- GF ROASTED BUTTERNUT SQUASH & SWEET POTATO SOUP
• served with toasted ciabatta •
- GF SMOKED SALMON, HADDOCK & SPINACH ROULADE
• with a sweet chilli & cucumber relish •
- GF PARMA HAM, SUNBLUSHED TOMATO & MOZZARELLA SALAD
• served with green leaves and finished with pesto •
- V CARAMELISED ONION, ROASTED TOMATO & OLIVE TAPENADE TART
• with dressed leaves and balsamic •

MAIN COURSE

TRADITIONAL ROAST TURKEY
• with roasted potatoes, sage & onion stuffing, pigs in blankets, cranberry sauce & red wine gravy •
CAN BE GLUTEN FREE ON REQUEST

ROAST SIRLOIN OF BEEF
• with a horseradish & rosemary scented yorkshire pudding and port jus •

GF SEARED FILLET OF SALMON
• with a mixed bean cassoulet & crispy basil •

V ROASTED SEASONAL VEGETABLE WELLINGTON
• with a rich roasted tomato sauce •

ALL MAINS SERVED WITH ROAST POTATOES BRUSSEL SPROUTS AND A SELECTION OF VEGETABLES

DESSERTS

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS PUDDING
• with brandy sauce and plum pudding ice cream •

GF CRÈME CARAMEL
• with candied chestnuts and chantilly cream •

DARK CHOCOLATE BROWNIE
• with an eggnog anglaise •

V BELGIAN CHOCOLATE & CLEMENTINE TORTE
• with a citrus coulis •

V SELECTION OF CHEESES
• Served with celery, grapes, homemade chutney and crackers (supp £4) •

A selection of Teas & coffees are available but not included



NATIONAL TRUST EVENTS

The National Trust have a couple of Christmas events coming up in our area this festive season :

From 30th November to 22nd December Alfriston Clergy House will be decorated to show “Christmas through the ages”. Open from 11am to 3.30pm each day, normal entrance charges apply, and free to members. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/alfriston-clergy-house

At Birling Gap, the “Carols in the Cafe” event takes place at 4pm on Sunday 15th December. Entry to this is £7, which includes mince pies and mulled wine. Watch, listen, join in or just mime! www.nationaltrust.org.uk/birling-gap-and-the-seven-sisters

REMEMBERANCE SUNDAY AT THE AIRMAN'S GRAVE



In what has now become an annual event, the BHR ramble on Sunday 10th November will visit the RAF Wellington Memorial, otherwise known as the Airman's Grave, on the Ashdown Forest. Not actually a grave, it commemorates the six crew of the bomber which crashed in bad weather when returning home from a raid over Cologne in July 1941.

The event regularly attracts around 2,000 people, and it is

quite a sight to see walkers and horse riders gathered together in a forest clearing to observe the two minutes silence. This is followed by the playing of the bugle and the laying of wreaths.

The walk leaves the Kings Standing car park at 10.0am but the Ashdown Forest car parks get very busy on this day so get there early!

- ❖ *Full details of the walk are in the November/December walks programme, the BHR website and the Ramblers app.*

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK LOTTERY

Far be it from your editor to encourage you to gamble, but if you are going to do it, it might as well be for a good cause:

October saw the launch of the South Downs National Park Lottery. The Park Trust says the money being raised will go towards a number of projects: Improving walking and cycling routes, improving the grassland, heathland & woodland, increasing learning time in the National Park, and providing help for communities volunteering to support the National Park.

Tickets for the weekly lottery cost £1 each and it follows the tried and tested formula of choosing six numbers. The weekly jackpot for six numbers is £25,000 and there are a number of smaller prizes down to £25 for three numbers. The organisers claim there is a 1 in 56 chance of winning a prize each week. Full details, together with terms and conditions and the opportunity to buy tickets can be found at www.southdownslottery.co.uk . Good luck.

HISTORY WALKS : LEWES BONFIRE



Described as “a head-on collision between Halloween and Mardi Gras”, Lewes Bonfire is the U.K.’s largest and most famous bonfire festivity, indeed it is one of the largest events in the calendar of traditional customs.

Always held on 5th November (unless the 5th falls on a Sunday, in which case it's on Saturday 4th), the event not only marks Guy Fawkes Night but also commemorates the memory of the Protestant martyrs from the town. The Lewes Martyrs were a group of 17 Protestants who were burned at the stake in Lewes between 1555 and 1557. These executions were part of the Marian persecutions of Protestants during the reign of Mary I, and included the mass burning of ten martyrs together in June 1557 - the largest mass burning ever to take place in England. The memorial to the Martyrs (*pictured left*) was erected in 1901 and stands overlooking the town on Cliffe Hill. It is floodlit each November 5th.

Bonfire celebrations on 5th November do of course have their origins with the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, when a group of English Catholics led by Robert Catesby and including Guy Fawkes were foiled in their plot to blow up the House of Lords. A public holiday was declared on 5th November each year to allow the public to celebrate and give thanks. Hence the tradition of burning Guy Fawkes on the bonfire was born. The public holiday was repealed in 1859 but the tradition continues.

Originally the celebrations in Lewes were not planned but were random events that more closely resembled riots, with home-made fireworks and bonfires being lit in the streets of the town. They continued until they were banned by Oliver Cromwell, but then reintroduced in 1660 under King Charles II. The celebrations became rowdier and rowdier until 1847, when police forces were drafted in from London to sort things out. There were riots and fighting, and restrictions were clamped on the festivities. However, by 1850 things had calmed down and the former riots had become much more like the processions we see today.



By the mid-19th century the practice of burning an effigy of Pope Paul V had begun. Paul V was pope at the time of the Gunpowder Plot in 1605 and the poor fellow is still burnt every year to this day. It is still possible to see the “No Popery” signs hanging in the streets on the 5th, although they are fewer and less prominent these days, and the organisers insist that sectarianism now plays no part. (In 1981 Ian Paisley visited Lewes on Bonfire Night and tried handing out anti-Catholic pamphlets. His intervention back-fired and the following year he was burned in effigy!)



Pope V and Guy Fawkes are joined in the torchlight procession and on the bonfires by huge and beautifully crafted effigies of newsworthy figures who have ranged in recent years from Osama bin Laden to Jeremy Clarkson via Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump.



Donald Trump



..... Theresa May



..... and Vladimir Putin make their way to the fire.

Following several smaller processions throughout the town, the main procession is then led by the carrying of 17 flaming crosses to commemorate the martyrs. There follows an eye popping parade of costumed torch-carrying celebrants. The seven Lewes Bonfire Societies are joined by around 25 other Sussex Bonfire Societies to march the town's streets. This can mean up to 5,000 costumed participants taking part in the procession, all carrying flaming torches – an astonishing sight.



Later in the evening the Societies disperse to various parts of the town, which then enjoys the sight of seven huge bonfires and firework displays. The event has been known to attract up to 80,000 spectators and in recent years, fearing serious accidents, the police have overseen the closure of all road and rail links to the town on the 5th, sadly now making it difficult for non-residents to view this spectacular event. 🗨️AH



- ❖ *Details of the BHR walk to Cliffe Hill to view the fireworks on 5th November are contained elsewhere in this newsletter.*

3 pairs of ladies walking boots, size 6, little worn and in good condition, FREE to good homes.
1) North Face lightweight boots. 2) Trespass lightweight boots. 3) Berghaus leather boots.
Contact Suzie at suziet339@gmail.com

If you have a news item or an item of interest you would like to see included in the newsletter please contact Alan Hibbert at alanhibbert@hotmail.com

