

Cancelling a walk

Very occasionally weather or ground conditions have become dire and the leader has to cancel. This is only done in extreme cases as most of us are prepared for some rain or mud but should the conditions become necessary to cancel for safety reasons then it is the leader's responsibility to contact the Secretary and ask for an email to be circulated announcing this. The leader however will still need to attend at the advertised time in the event that any members had failed to note the cancellation.

Leading a walk

A successful programme of walks (we aim to do a least twelve a year) requires a pool of walk leaders who are prepared to take on the task. Two of our regular leaders have, in the past twelve months, stood down making a heavier burden on those that remain. It is always good anyway to have new faces with fresh ideas leading us from time to time! As we tend to concentrate all our walks on the first Sunday of each month the leader's main concern is to fix the starting time and place (car parks are useful meeting places) and approximate distance. If there is a coffee shop or pub at the end all the better. It's a good plan to keep within the Dedham/Ardleigh/Bergholt/Langham parishes but we do often venture further afield.

At the start the leader would normally check that one of the participants will act as back marker (high visibility vest recommended) to ensure that we don't lose anybody. This is particularly important if the walk is well attended as our 2019 experience has been. There is nearly always somebody who will volunteer to do this. Throughout the walk the leader should be monitoring the pace and check to make sure the group has not become strung out. If so a brief pause for catch up will be needed.

DEDHAM FOOTPATH GROUP

The 2020 First Half Walk Programme (Inside pages)

Secretary: Jan Jukes, (01206 370191) (dedhamfg@gmail.com)

Treasurer Graham Manuel (07787631074 (gandamanuel@gmail.com))

Committee: Margaret Smith (01206 822797)

(smithm@essex.ac.uk);

Sue Page (01206 298185)

(susan.a.page@btinternet.com)

Jan Turner (01206 250836)

(jantelelm@googlemail.com)

John Osborn (07919521607)

(johnfosborn@btinternet.com);

The postal address for any subscriptions (currently £7 per member) is: **John Osborn, Rose House, Link Lane, Bentley Ipswich IP9 2DP**

Contact one of the above if needing to confirm any walk details. Guests are welcome, also dogs on leads. We would like to encourage car-sharing so if you would like a lift to or from the starting point, or if you have space available, please contact a member of the Committee.

Our next AGM will be on January 5th 2020 in the Duchy Barn close to the Dedham war memorial and will commence at 1pm. The annual subscription of £7 can be paid at the beginning of the meeting with the formal part following. The reason for the change of season for our AGM is to try to attract more members and potential members for this one annual occasion when the whole membership have a chance to put forward their points of view. Until some five years ago the AGM was always held on an evening in January and was generally well attended.

We still seek a new Chairman. The post has been unfilled for several years with the responsibilities being shared amongst the committee.

It would, however, be desirable if a Chairman could be found from amongst our membership so feel free to volunteer or find out more.

Sunday 5th Jan 2020 Leaders John Osborn & Marlene Townes.

Assemble Dedham War Memorial at 1030 for a local 'three churches' walk to E Bergholt and Stratford St Mary before returning to Dedham. Two hours of easy walking. If the flood meadows by the river are seriously flooded then an alternative walk will be substituted. The walk will end at the Duchy Barn (a few yards from the start) soon after 1230 and in good time for our AGM which is set to start at 1pm. Those members wishing to attend the meeting but not walking should aim to be there by 1pm. Hot drinks and mince pies will be provided.

Sunday 2nd February 2020 (10.30am start). Leader Ian Chapman. Meet in the car park immediately before the Dovercourt recycling centre, West End Lane Dovercourt CO12 3SF for a walk along the seafront to Harwich and return by a different route. We will have a half way stop so bring any drinks etc. and there are coffee shops and pubs nearby.

Sunday 1st March 2020 (10.30am start). Leader Margaret Smith. Meet on the blocked off road near the weir and close to Le Talbooth (CO7 6HP) at Stratford St Mary where parking is

available along the roadside. A five mile walk through varied countryside with some of the route following the river.

Sunday 5th April 2020 Leader Roger Evans. (10.30am start)

Assemble free car park Magdalen Road, Hadleigh IP7 5BB (rear of Coop store) for a 4 to 5 mile walk in the immediate area. A short break midway so bring any refreshments. There are plenty of coffee shops etc in Hadleigh on our return. Roger, who led us on December 1st 2019 same time and place, has assured us that this will be in a different part of the Hadleigh surrounds.

Sunday 3rd May 2020 (2.30pm start) Leader John Osborn.

Meet in the car park at Lemons Hill Bridge, Tattingstone (alongside the north side of reservoir) for a seven- mile circular walk around Alton Water heading clockwise towards the Alton Water coffee shop which we should reach by 4.15pm. Following a half hour break the second part of the walk will see us back at the start by approx. 6.15pm. The walk can therefore be broken up into two separate walks of four miles and three miles. A lift back to the coffee shop can be arranged for any walkers who opt for the second stage only.

Sunday 7th June 2020 (1030 start) Leader Jan Jukes

Meet at the very end of Cattawade Street Brantham CO11 1RF for a 4-5 mile circular river and fields walk.
