



Rambling On

AUTUMN EDITION

Aug - Oct 2022

Interesting, informative and fun – walk reports, articles, club news and great pictures

Chairman's Message

What has gone on in woods this summer is revealed here: the Chairman in a 'punch-up' with a tree, a fascinating 'shingle shelter sculpture' in a Surrey wood and gate-vaulting to escape fields where livestock grow fat in the forest.

We have a quick guide to sheep breeds, and learn lots about the 'hides' and 'hundreds' that formed our patchwork of fields and woods. Orchards have now replaced by vineyards in the

Weald, and on the Downs too, where walkers savoured the wildlife delights of the Rathfinny landscape whilst being buzzed by the Red Arrows.

And as we remember the passing of HRH The Queen we learn of the importance of silk and mulberry trees with royalty.

John Feltwell

PLENTY OF WILDLIFE ON VIEW ON GINA AND LYN'S WALK, WHICH WAS ALSO NOTABLE FOR BEV EMPLOYING HIS GATE-VAULTING AGILITY TO AVOID A FALL AND JOHN BEING INVOLVED IN A PUNCH-UP WITH A TREE

31 July 2022

Robertsbridge circular walk

Report by Rowly

A good number of ramblers assembled at the station car park on a fine walking day . We set off beside the railway tracks in a northerly direction and, soon after reaching open country, altered course away from them.

We crossed several fields on the way towards Hackwoods Farm, the crops looking very bleached and low yielding. On the way, Bev was nearly felled by a fast moving Border terrier and only retained a vertical stance by dint of an impressive display of agility (for a gent of mature years).

Once past the farm, we carried on across more fields and a stream, observing two herds of deer on the far side of the valley en route. This now took us across Ludpit Lane at Willards Hill into another field, with a

sign which announced "Rams in Field". Luckily these must have been on holiday and we carried on to reach Fontridge Lane near the manor house.

Following this for about half a mile, we reached Fishers Farm and turned left across the fields to ,Burgh Wood. Here, we had our refreshment break seated on some very convenient felled tree trunks.

Afterwards, we followed a valley back towards Robertsbridge passing through a field with a large number of dragonflies, and another containing a herd of Sussex cattle including a huge and contented bull. At the end of this a steep climb brought us to Ludpit Lane again and we followed this for a short distance before cutting across to Brightling Road.

A short distance up brought us to the drive to Scalands Farm which has two very tall Giant Sequoia trees at its entrance. Chairman John gave a demonstration of their soft bark by punching them hard without

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damaging himself. Further on, we passed the farm where, on a previous recce, Meg, the dog's, nose led her to a flock of guinea fowl, which rapidly discovered

what wings are for. Carrying on, we walked through the Darvell community village and back to the station, where the railway enthusiast shop was now open, much to Terry's delight, and he re-appeared with a pile of choo-choo porn.

21 August 2022
A New South Downs Walk!!
Report by Brenda

VARYING ATTITUDES FROM WALKERS AS THEY TACKLED BRENDA AND TERRY'S UNDULATING SOUTH DOWNS RAMBLE, WHICH CULMINATED IN A FLY-PAST BY THE RED ARROWS

Switching from sheep to Ramblers, Bo Peep continued to lose things, as attendees struggled to find her car park.

The stoic dozen who were not put off by the warning of steep gradients set off on a lovely, level grassy path with glorious panoramic views. How complacent they became.

A steep downhill path led into the Rathfinney Wine estate and still no murmuring of dissent in the ranks. Taking a left turn and start uphill however ...

The outbreak of grumbling soon ceased, to be replaced, first by unseemly language and then by panting.

Halfway up there was an excuse to pause at an information post with a recording about the history of Rathfinney. Even the presenter sounded out of breath. Onwards to the summit. After planting a flag, we proceeded along a ridge with wide views to



north and south and the complacency set in once again. Even as we gradually descended the slope, the happy chatter continued.

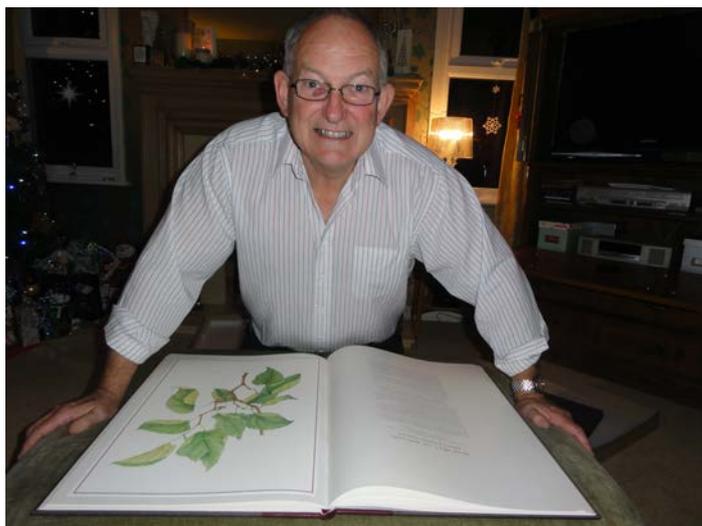
Over the first of two stiles and there was stunned silence and an implied "if that first hill wasn't tough enough for you, try this".

Up a vertical, but mercifully short, slope we went, very slowly. At the top, we broke out the water and congratulated ourselves with a refreshment break.

Although we were once again on top of the Downs, the remainder of walk continued uphill, albeit very gently, with glorious panoramic views. A fine walk, designed by M.C. Escher and topped off with a congratulatory fly past by the Red Arrows.



HRH Queen Elizabeth II remembered by your Chairman

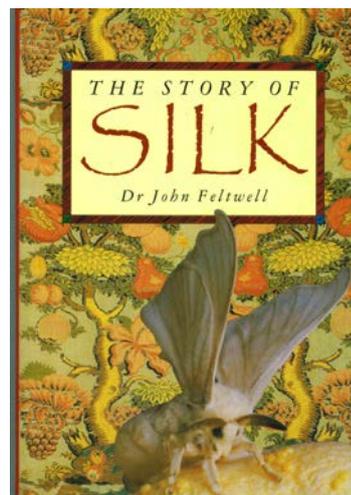


John Feltwell with a copy of 'The Queen's Mulberries – A Celebratory Book' published at £1,000 a copy in 2012

In 2011 your Hon Chairman was invited to write the introduction to a book on mulberry trees as a surprise for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for her Diamond Jubilee in 2012. This involved having two meetings in Buckingham Palace to discuss production. The Head Gardener had, over the years gathered together all 29 species of mulberry trees from around the world, so now the 'National Collection of Mulberries' (*Morus* sp.) are in the garden at Buckingham Palace. The Queen had allowed the gardener to indulge his passion (for she had other passions) and The Royal Warrant Holders' Association had then gone on to commission large watercolours of stems, leaves and fruits from acclaimed botanical artist Alysia Hunt. These are the illustrations in the 'The Queen's Mulberries – A Celebratory Book'.

What had started all of this, was that the Head Gardener had come across my book on *The Story of Silk* (1990) which I suppose had lain in the library of either Windsor or Buckingham Palace after I had presented a copy to Charles and Diana. I had illustrated Diana's English silk wedding dress and had a chapter on 'Royal Silks' that described royal robes such as those of Henry VIII. Spinning out the silk from the cocoons of the silkworm that fed on mulberry leaves had always been the source of silk. With the arrival of Huguenot immigrants from the continent, some of which were experts in silk production, James I set about establishing mulberry trees throughout the kingdom- but his head gardener at the time got the species wrong. He made cuttings from Black Mulberry,

Morus nigra, instead of the White Mulberry, *Morus alba* which silkworms prefer. James made all his visiting Lord Lieutenants to go off with slips of mulberries to plant in the shires which is why you now find lots of original 'James I Mulberry Trees' in the stately homes you visit. These are all the wrong species for silkworms (and often not the originals trees either, except perhaps at Hatfield House (where Elizabeth I lived). Early on, silk was more valuable than gold so that is why the royals tried to promote silk from James I onwards. It was doomed to failure. Elizabeth I even had a law forbidding ordinary people from wearing silk. So it is no coincidence that mulberries are in the gardens at Buckingham Palace.



'The Story of Silk' took at least 10 years to write and was published in 1990. It is highly illustrated in colour with black and white prints. Said now to be a key work on silk (!) it was the origin of my invitation to write the introduction to 'The Queen's Mulberries – A Celebratory Book'



Silkworms only eat mulberry leaves and through millennia of breeding hardly walk anywhere off their food.

Likewise the silkworm has lost the use of its wings and cannot fly, indeed extinct in the wild. They mate as soon as they hatch and produce eggs all over the mulberry leaves.



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My experiences with visiting Buckingham Palace were that the doors were so high; if I had been on horseback I would never have had to bow my head and the passageways were lined with horse bronzes. The Queen was very pleased with her book; it is a boxed folio edition, covered in silk, tooled up in gold, at £1,000 a copy, and a limited edition of only 100 copies were printed – with all overs and misprints having to be destroyed. Prince Charles was given a complimentary copy. I also remember being served Prince Charles's biscuits at teatime – and the toilets not flushing (the palace is being refurbished).

To add to the National Collection of mulberries at Buckingham Palace, I donated two examples of a Japanese mulberry that I now grow in Catsfield, called *Morus alba* 'Kokuso' which was chosen by revivalists of the silk industry in the Cévennes (Gard, 30, France). It produces huge leaves better to be eaten by silkworms than the Black Mulberries that are so



Your Chairman in 2017 with White Mulberry, *Morus alba* 'Kokuso' the week before leaf fall when the green leaves change to yellow. Two of these trees were donated to the royal collection in September 2016.

widespread in England all due to a mistake by James I's gardener.

As an entomologist I have to say that it is always astonishing that silk is produced in liquid form from the mouths of caterpillars (silkworms) and that silkworms only feed on mulberry leaves. This was always a trade secret known only by the Chinese for millennia, punishable by death if the secret of the seeds and silkworm eggs got out, but that is another story of industrial espionage.

www.mulberries.org.uk – to find out more about the book and lists the *Morus* species.

19 August 2022 Sedlescombe Circular Evening Ramble – led by Lynne G



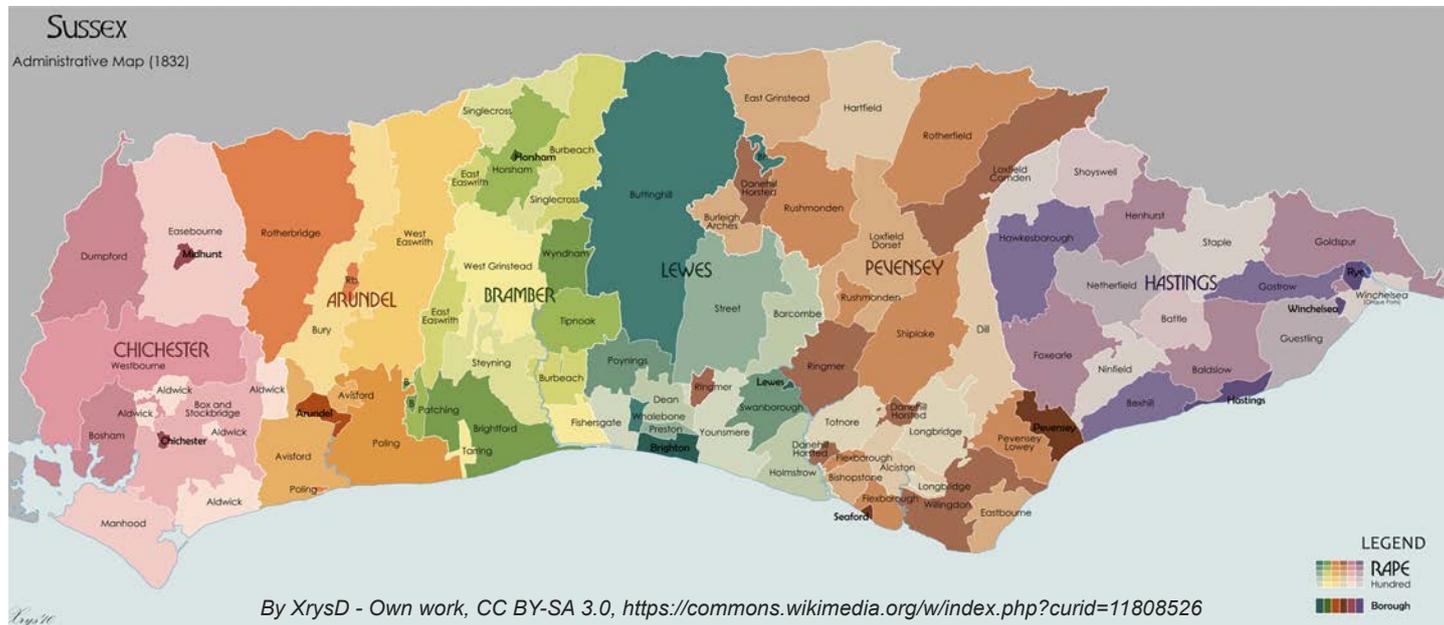
02 September 2022 Battle, Peppering Eye, Millers Farm Evening Ramble – led by June



HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS

Article by Terry Milford

Do you know which hundred you live in? You can probably work it out from the map, but what is a hundred anyway?

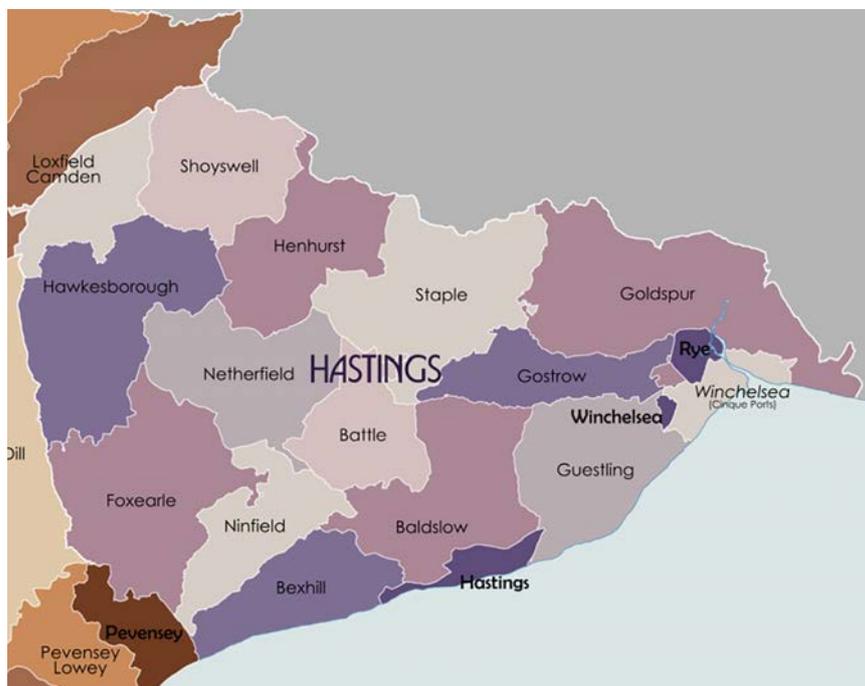


In Anglo Saxon times the land was divided into "hides" which was the amount of land a family lived on and worked to support itself. Ten hides made a "tithing", each of which had a tithe barn to store a tenth of the crop which was surrendered to the earl in tax. Ten tithings made a hundred.

Each hundred was supervised by a constable and hundreds were grouped into shires, each under an earl. The French equivalent of earl is count so, after the Normans arrived, the shires became counties. Law officers were known as "reeves" and the chief officer in a shire was the shire reeve, contracted to sheriff.

The hundreds in Sussex, of which there are 69 (East and West) were also, uniquely, grouped into six administrative "rapes", Chichester, Arundel, Bramber, Lewes, Pevensey and Hastings, similar to Yorkshire's ridings. It is not known when these were established nor where the word comes from. There are conflicting theories citing old English, French and even Icelandic words.

The Hastings Rape was populated by descendants of



the Hastingsas tribe which was distinct from other South Saxons having origins in and close associations with Normandy. This partly explains William's familiarity with the geography when he invaded.

Although now obsolete as administrative areas, neither the rapes nor the hundreds have ever been formally abolished.

18 September 2022

A walk between Stonegate and Mayfield

Report by Dr John Feltwell (your Chairman)



JOHN LEADS 18 WALKERS INTO AN ISOLATED AREA OF TRUE BEAUTY AND NATURAL HISTORY ON A GLORIOUSLY FINE SEPTEMBER DAY

Eighteen people were treated to the true beauty and natural history of a particularly isolated piece of the AONB on a fine and glorious day. Two walkers from the High Weald Walking Festival registered, one turned up. The walk was about six miles and took about three hours because there was a lot to see. First of all we were walking through various 'Ancient Woodlands' (at least ten named woodlands, shaws and ghylls) the largest were Batt's Wood and Combe Wood – and the proud stems of bluebell were still standing shedding their seeds (main way of dispersal) indicating that in spring these would have supported a delightful blue haze to the understory.

The colourful hues of autumn had not arrived yet as the frosts have not arrived. However, the woodlands were beautiful, many of them 'coppice with standards' the coppices being sweet chestnut and standards oaks (used for building timber-framed houses and ships). Deer must be everywhere as their slots were ubiquitous, but these were wild deer, not the rarer ones kept in

Wadhurst Park that we skirted. The woodland trails even tax the expertise of seasoned walkers and ramblers so that we (thanks Simon and Bev) still had to consult our maps / compasses / mobiles / the sun / dead-reckoning to keep on the right track! What would we do without mobiles? If we had not deviated a shade, we would not have met Sue, long-time walker who joined the last French walking trip a couple of years back.

Of the birds seen, buzzard and herons were the largest ones. Of the late summer butterflies, the most common was the speckled wood in the last of the sun's strong rays in glades and along hedgerows, and the last of the small whites, and small coppers were present. One of the large 'Master Oaks' had unfortunately fallen – these are used by purple emperor butterflies for finding mates around the top, courting and mating. June calls these isolated old oaks 'Fairy Trees' but who knows what goes on after dark. This is a migrating period and both house martins and swallows were on the wing and flying southwards. For entomologists who like creepy-crawlies, we passed some ancient meadows replete



with large ant hills – just as ancient as ancient woodlands. Soon the frosts will colour our AONB woodlands to make another visual experience.

16 September 2022 Battle Health Walk / High Weald Walking Festival – led by Audrey

Friday's Battle Health Walk was on the HWWF programme and took an extra five walkers into the Abbey



Sunny walks, spectacular views, great company and comedy dining

23-25 September 2022

Surrey Hills Walking Weekend – A great success!

Report by Vivienne

Cold rain falling from a bleak, grey St Leonards' sky made an unpromising start to a weekend walking in the Surrey Hills. But encouraged by the promise of great company and stunning vistas I set off to meet up with my car-share hosts, Ann and Rob, and co-hostess Alaina. Entertaining ourselves en route with a low-scoring game of Spot Some Blue Sky, we brightened on arrival at the What3Words location, the delightful Parrot Inn, Forest Green, only to discover, after consulting Google Maps, that we were meant to be four miles away.

Arriving at Friday Street car park, we found Simon deep in conversation on his mobile. "You're where?" he asked the caller. "The Parrot Inn, Forest Green? But that's miles away ...". (In fairness to Simon, I must point out that entering the same What3Words while at Friday Street car park indicated a spot about 10 feet away, so it was all a bit baffling.) Brenda, Terry and Gina were already there so when Peter and Julie (Simon's callers) arrived a few minutes later, our party of 10 was complete – as was our joy when the rain stopped, the sun came out and continued to shine the entire weekend.

Our first walk took us through woods up Leith Hill, the highest point on the Greensand Ridge, to the Tower, built in 1765 'as a place for people to enjoy the glory of the English countryside'. According to the current owners, the National Trust, from the top can be seen the English Channel to the south and the clock face of Big Ben to the north. We stayed at the base of the Tower, but still enjoyed stunning views across a great sweep of countryside as we sipped welcome mugs of tea from the kiosk.



We descended via the pretty Tillingbourne waterfall – guarded by a barbed-wire fence and multiple PRIVATE signs – to Abinger Common (possibly the oldest village in England) and the Abinger Hatch, the first of several pubs we visited which Ann identified as one she frequented in her youth (I'll say no more).



Refreshed, we checked into the Dorking Travelodge before heading to our chosen dinner venues. Some of us enjoyed excellent food and possibly a little more wine than originally intended at the cosy Queen's Head. Others headed to Rooster's Kitchen for Mediterranean food which was very good but took two hours to arrive. This, apparently, was Peter's fault because, the proprietor 'explained', he had ordered a starter!



On Saturday we were joined by Caroline and assembled at Peaslake for a 9-mile all-day circular walk. Heading up Winterfold Hill we found, nestled among the trees, Giles Miller's 'Perspectives', a shelter made from wooden shingles engraved with words and messages.

It is one of five 'sculptural benches' along the Greensand Way commissioned by Surrey Hills Arts to provide 'a reason to visit, pause and appreciate the outstanding view'.

Continuing on up Reynards Hill we came to another of the benches, Russel Jakubowski's 'Contour' which uses recycled materials to create a wave-like structure as a response to prehistoric marine sedimentation.

Lunch was eaten at the top of Pitch Hill, another amazing viewpoint overlooking a vast expanse of fields and distant hills.

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On past the remarkable Duke of Kent School, founded by the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund originally to educate the sons of RAF personnel, across to Holmbury Hill and down into the village of Holmbury St Mary for tea in the garden of The Royal Oak. The final stretch of the walk took us back to Peaslake and refreshments at the Hurtwood Inn.



Evening brought the group dinner at the Watermill Inn, seemingly modelled on Fawlty Towers. We arrived to find Brenda, Gina and Terry sipping wine from tumblers. "They've got no wine glasses", Brenda explained. Rob advised the bar staff to acquaint themselves with the dishwasher and some wine glasses appeared as we were shown to our table. "May we have some jugs of water" I asked. "Sorry", said the waiter, "we haven't got any jugs".

We placed our orders, several opting for pizza, and the waiter disappeared, only to return a few minutes later. "Sorry", he said, "we haven't got any mozzarella. Do you want cheddar and stilton instead?" I didn't. "Can I please have a piece of stilton with some broccoli and fries?" I asked. "I'll have to check", he replied, "I'm not

sure if the stilton comes in pieces". It did and our food arrived in due course. But the menu description of one option was so creative that only when it appeared on the plate was it revealed to be a veggie burger. Someone headed for the toilets: "Sorry sir, they're out of order". We retired to the bar where an order for an iceless Tia Maria and 3 whiskies, one with ice, produced 3 iceless whiskies, one in a chipped glass, and a Tia Maria with ice. Meanwhile, two men at the bar were refused their chosen drink because it didn't show on the till screen, although the drink itself was on the shelf in front of them. Still, it was a fun evening and the venue gave us lots to talk and laugh about!

For most of the group, Sunday began at Ryka's – 'run by bikers for bikers' – Café. Some vegetarians, anticipating mingled aromas of frying bacon and well-worn cowhide, gave it a miss, breakfasting instead on Ann's seemingly endless stock of marmalade brioche buns. We then all assembled for the final walk, a circular around Ranmore Common, a landscape which, according to the National Trust, is virtually unchanged since the medieval period. We walked up through woods to points offering views of Polesden Lacey, the Edwardian estate where the future King George VI and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother began their honeymoon in 1923, and across to Leith Hill Tower where we had stopped for tea on the first walk.



Returning to the starting point, we bade our farewells and headed home, relaxed and revitalised. Many thanks to Simon and Brenda for organising and leading the whole thing, to Simon also for most of the photographs included here and to everyone for their great company on a fantastic weekend in an Area of truly Outstanding Natural Beauty.

02 October 2022

Peasmarsh

Report by June

JUNE AND JOHN BRAVE IT ON A WET WET DAY

The 2nd of October brought the first walk of our Autumn programme, my 7 mile trek starting in Peasmarsh. I hadn't felt particularly well all week, testing for Covid each day. The weather had been wet and very windy almost every day and Sunday morning brought no change, the rain was hammering down. I

had made up my mind that nobody would turn out but after testing negative off I went to the start. To my surprise John D pulled up (Thank You John)

We decided we may as well have a walk but would only do about four miles – a wooded trail, no mud, just water from above. We only saw one couple with their dog Bruce who wanted to join us rather than go with his owners. Almost back and the sunshine appeared through the haze. Needless to say we were a bit wet. Monday morning I tested positive for Covid which put me out of action for a good few days.

BAAA-TTLE RAMBLINGS OR MORE THAN YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT SHEEP

Article by Brenda Milford

You're out on Sunday with Battle Ramblers. You're walking across a field and you're faced with a flock of sheep. Generally whitish, sometimes woolly, in spring with lambs (ahhhh), timid, a bit curious, but usually dim. Just sheep, eh? Well, a bit more interesting than that.

Lest you're bored already, let's start at the cute end – lambs.

Usually, the sheep you see in the fields are females – ewes. In late summer or autumn, the ewes have the dirty fleece removed from around their bottoms (this is usually called "dagging") and rams are introduced to the flock. Rams either wear a harness on their chest containing a block of waxy crayon, called raddle. or more rarely, the farmer will rub the waxy crayon on the ram's chest. When the ram then meets a ewe and does what rams are supposed to do, he leaves a mark on the ewe's rump. In this way the farmer can tell which ewes have been "served". The farmer may use different colour raddles to tell which ram served which ewe and when.

The gestation period for sheep is between 4.5 and 5 months. In most lowland breeds, the ewe usually has twins. Triplets or quads are rarer. Hill breeds of sheep usually have one lamb. Like humans, pregnant sheep can be scanned to see how many lambs they are carrying. Spray paint marks are used to denote single lambs, twins, triplets etc, or whether the ewe is barren. This isn't just curiosity on the part of the farmer, it's

helpful for feeding purposes – ewes carrying two or more lambs may need supplementary feeding.

Sheep don't usually need human intervention to give birth but many farmers bring them in near lambing time so they can monitor progress, intervene if necessary, and check the new born lambs. The mother and her lambs are checked to make sure they are healthy and the lambs have a band applied round the lower part of the tail to dock part of it. (Partial docking at this stage helps prevent fly infestations later when the sheep are older and dirtier around the rear end.) Unless a male lamb is to be reared as a breeding ram, he'll be castrated. Lambs are ear tagged and spray paint is used to number the mother and her lambs so the farmer can tell which lambs belong to which ewe should they get separated.

Once mother and lambs have formed a close bond, they are put out in the fields so ramblers can go "Ahhhhhh".



Sheep Breeds

Usually, the sheep we see in fields are cross breeds. Farmers may select the ewes for breeding based on

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whether they are able to carry and give birth to lambs easily and whether they are good mothers as well as their suitability for the meat market. Ewes that have previously rejected lambs or have trouble giving birth are not usually a good bet for successful breeding. As most of the lambs in this country are reared for meat, the ram is usually of a good “meaty” breed. These days few sheep are reared for their fleece – the value is very low. Rams and ewes do of course have to be in good condition to breed. Even though most of the sheep we see are cross breeds certain breed characteristics will stand out.

Of the breeds we are most likely to see here in Kent and East Sussex, the most instantly recognisable is the **Suffolk**. The Suffolk’s face, down-turned ears and socks are black. This is a breed that produces good sturdy lambs for meat. Even crossbreed Suffolk lambs generally have the distinctive black face and ears.



The South Down originated near Lewes. It can now be seen widely on the Downs but until fairly recently it was considered to be a rare breed. It is a

small breed, useful for meat and wool and has a woolly, “teddy bear” face.

The Ryland, again a downland breed. Although not particularly common here in E. Sussex, there are a few small flocks. One of the oldest breeds, dual purpose and here because it is one of my favourites. It is not dissimilar to the South Down.



The Romney. A large breed, very common on Romney Marsh. A dual-purpose, “longwool” breed, although nowadays mainly reared for meat. Romney Marsh lamb that has grazed on the salt marshes is sought after by restaurants.



The Herdwick. This is usually found in the Lakes, but there is a small flock on the South Downs and also one near Ashburnham. This is a hardy hill breed. The lambs are usually black and as they age the face becomes white and the fleece grey.

the face becomes white and the fleece grey.

Those ears!!!

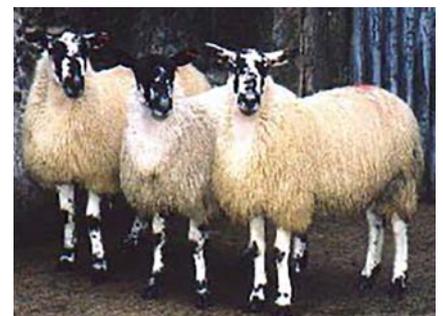
This is a **Border Leicester**.

The ewes are excellent mothers and raise good lambs.



Texel sheep originated in the Netherlands. The Texel is heavily muscled, with a large rump and lean meat. This characteristic passes to crossbreed lambs.

North Country Mule. This is a crossbreed between a Leicester ram and a blackfaced Swaledale ewe. It is one of the most prolific breeds in the UK today and is very popular as a meat breed and for breeding. Faces and legs are often speckled and the ears large.



CLUB NEWS**IT EMERGES AT THEIR 43rd AGM THAT BATTLE RAMBLERS ARE IN A VERY SOUND POSITION, ORGANISATIONALLY, FINANCIALLY AND SOCIALLY**

There were a number of apologies for absence prior to the meeting at the Emmanuel Centre, leading to the impression that attendance might be low, but, looking across the assembled company on the day, there was hardly a spare seat to be had and we were certainly full up for the ensuing tea party.

June said she counted 35 members present but, rather comically, added that 'it was difficult to count them because they kept moving about'!

We gathered, as usual, in the Coffee Lounge, where people could avail themselves of as many raffle tickets as they wanted, the sale was indeed generously supported, realising a total of £93. There were a vast array of prizes on offer, including several of John's books, two of which were eagerly snapped up by John and Lois when they produced a winning ticket.

Then, upstairs for the serious business. John, as Chairman, gave his customary smooth address, followed by contributions from all of the major holders of posts. While this was going on, there was an interesting display of photographs on screens around the room, all showing members on various walking locations (you could spot yourself if you had a keen enough eye). There was great concern, principally by

Bev and John, about a building development at the Normanhurst Estate.

All Committee members agreed to serve another year and all were duly proposed and seconded. There is one addition for the 2022-23 year, John Daniels joins the Committee as its 10th member.

John Harmer made an appeal for Footpath Wardens to cover several vacancies. John, himself, is serving a final year as East Sussex Countryside Officer after ten years in the post.

June, at the end of the meeting, added a nice complement to John F. for all his work as our Chairman over the past few years, with which the room warmly concurred.

Back to the Lounge where we enjoyed a varied assortment of sweet and savoury items and, of course, reviving cups of tea and coffee. Here, I must pay tribute to those who slaved away in the kitchen both before and after the refreshments, not helped by the fact that the dishwasher would not work.

A special mention too is due to June, for all her hard work in making this particular event such a great success. On leaving, we were met by a cloudburst just at the wrong time, giving some of a soaking.

Report by Rambling On Editor, David

A FAREWELL TO A FORMER MEMBER**A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE BRENDA JONES BY GLADYS KING, ANOTHER LONG-STANDING MEMBER OF BATTLE RAMBLERS, WHO WAS A FRIEND OF BRENDA'S FOR A VERY LONG TIME**

Brenda was a friend of mine for nearly 70 years.

She and her husband Jim Jones joined B.R. in 1992 after moving to Bexhill and, with myself and my husband Stuart, we spent many happy years walking most Sundays along with friends Jean Smith, Maureen Harrison and Kathleen Honeysett (Honey).

Jim was chairman from 1995-2009 and Brenda was well known for making and decorating cakes for Ramblers special functions, including the 25th anniversary at Leeford Place.

She and Jim were life members and she has attended most social functions since having to stop walking.

NB Several members of Battle Ramblers attended Brenda's funeral at Eastbourne Crematorium on October 21st.

CLUB NEWS

FOOTPATH UPDATES – thank you Bev

BLACKFRIARS DEVELOPMENT – BATTLE PUBLIC FOOTPATH 76

The very latest info on the housing development at Blackfriars has been published by Breheny - the civil engineering contractors to RDC and the Rother DC Housing Company Ltd.:

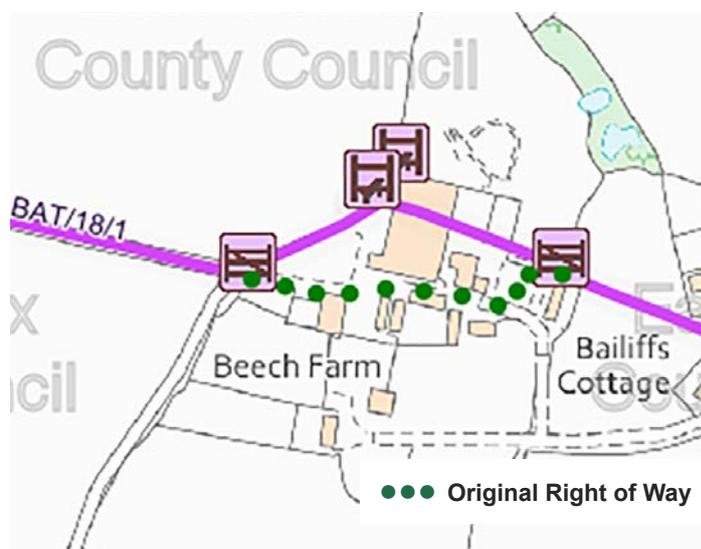
The route of Public Footpath 76 across the site is currently closed to the public for health and safety reasons during the heavy construction activity on site. We are aiming to re-open the Footpath generally on its original route adjacent to the existing tree line between Fields 1 & 2 around early-autumn 2023 with protected public access during the ongoing housebuilding activity.

BEECH FARM ESTATE, BEECH FARM LANE – BATTLE PUBLIC FOOTPATH 18 – RECAP OF THE AGM

The Beech Farm Estate have submitted a planning application for a new commercial development comprising 8 new units, car park and driveways that impact Footpath 18. This would result in walkers having to go between shed sides, thus losing the country walk amenity, crossing car parks, driveways and the access roadway.

Battle Ramblers consider the path should be re-aligned back to the safer old farmyard route providing a better visual amenity and safe viewing on vehicle movement.

At the Battle Ramblers Members AGM members were requested to respond to the planning application with a request for the footpath to be returned to the original



route through the farmyard. So members are encouraged to make comments on this Planning Application for a re-routing to be a Planning Condition that the developer must implement, if approved.

ANAGRAM

Christmas

- 1) Miss Chatterer
- 2) Wolf Snakes
- 3) Yeti duel
- 4) Totems Lie
- 5) Coordinate
- 6) Station Pie
- 7) Starfish Rematch
- 8) Tossing Eagerness
- 9) Boot Gang
- 10) Ole Ugly

Cocktails

- 1) Gingersnap Oils
- 2) Topical Moons
- 3) Burial Snacks
- 4) Nurse Qualities
- 5) Italy Runs
- 6) A Tenth Farthered Onion
- 7) Beaten Ski
- 8) Fooled Danish
- 9) Bacon Steroids
- 10) Badly Roomy

THE ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON THE LAST PAGE

30 October 2022
Herstmonceux walk
Report by Peter B

A WALK OF SOME ERRORS, SOME APPREHENSION AND A CONFRONTATION BUT PETER EVENTUALLY SUCCEEDS IN BRINGING HIS GROUP HOME, ASSISTED BY THE EAGLE EYE OF HIS WIFE, JULIE

There were 16 of us at the free car park in Herstmonceux ready to brave the somewhat wet, dull weather. With June as reliable back marker and my wife, Julie, as middle marker, off we set down a lane past houses and several fields

I had a feeling that everything would not go to plan, as I had done the recce only the week before to find that not all the pathways on the OS Map were there; which had caused much walking the perimeter of fields to find alternative means to get to a certain point.



On the actual walk, unsurprisingly for me, I made a wrong turn, but we passed some magnificent giant mushrooms in doing so, before Julie pointed out that I was leading us all astray.

The next error was going through a non public walkway for a few minutes to get to the signposted walkway – we were intercepted by a haughty woman in her vehicle who tried to persuade us to go her way to get to where we were eventually heading. In the end she relented and let us pass, strange that the yellow signed walkways were in a field which the public could not enter! Something not quite right there, but I have long given up puzzling about it.

After a short while the rain ceased and the weather improved and, with Bev and Chairman John present, we were treated to a few stops to learn about plants and places, including ancient sweet chestnut trees, how they were introduced to East Sussex, what their initial purpose was and how they end up with a high monetary value.

Despite being out in the open for much of the walk, with several stiles to climb, we stopped in an autumnal wood for lunch and also met and were greeted by two friendly rams, happy to be patted and stroked.



We all got back safely to the start, despite some apprehension from others in just over 3.5 hours, thanks to my trusty OS Maps app and Julie to point out when I started off in the wrong direction. So, on a walk with muddy patches, overgrown walkways, some directional confusion and rain, we had a very enjoyable walk and a view of the alien looking spectacle that is Herstmonceux observatory.woodlands to make another visual experience.



Don't tell the grown ups!



BATTLE RAMBLERS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Sunday 4 December 2022, Star Inn 12.00

A REMINDER TO ALL ATTENDING

WALK BEFORE THE LUNCH:

Meet at 10am, Star Inn Car Park

Make sure you have a pair of shoes to change into, as the walk will be muddy

THE LUNCH:

Entrance from 1145 hrs

The cost is £12.50 for two courses (starter and main) and £15.00 if you add a dessert. Please pay June in advance and ensure your payment includes a £1.00 per head tip from each of you.

Any queries contact June

BACKPACK SNACKS

MUDDY BUDDIES

2 cups Rice Krispies, Cornflakes or cereal of choice
 1 cup peanut butter
 ¼ cup maple syrup
 6 tbsp mini chocolate chips
 ½ tsp vanilla extract
 3 tbsp icing sugar

Lightly crush the cereal and then combine all ingredients, except icing sugar, in a bowl. Using a table spoon as a measure divide the mixture and roll into balls. Put icing sugar into a bowl and add a few balls at a time, shaking until the balls are coated. Transfer to a plate.

Can be kept in the fridge in an airtight container for up to 5 days or frozen for up to 3 months

Contributed by Amanda

ANAGRAM ANSWERS

Christmas

- 1) Christmas tree
- 2) Snowflakes
- 3) Yuletide
- 4) Mistletoe
- 5) Decorations
- 6) Poinsettia
- 7) Father Christmas
- 8) Seasons Greetings
- 9) Toboggan
- 10) Yule Log

Cocktails

- 1) Singapore Sling
- 2) Cosmopolitan
- 3) Black Russian
- 4) Tequila Sunrise
- 5) Rusty Nail
- 6) Death in the afternoon
- 7) Snakebite
- 8) Old Fashioned
- 9) Boston Sidecar
- 10) Bloody Mary

Our grateful thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition, either with a report, article or via some truly magnificent photography – The Editorial Team (Audrey, Brenda and David)

Edited by David Hollamby – please send your walk reports and photos to David as soon as possible, after your walk, to: martlets68@btinternet.com

www.battleramblers.org