

Newsletter of the Waveney & District Group of the Ramblers

Number 86: November 2021

Editorial

This is being written a few days before the cut off for walks in this new programme and it is not looking very good!

That leads us back to the regular plea for more members to lead walks. Maybe just one or two a year and you could possibly team up with another member if that would make it more fun; less stressful. Please give it a try.

The AGM is upon us again and there are a couple of vacancies, so some more volunteers required here please to ensure the ongoing running of our group - see details attached.

To help find the start of each walk, Roger and Neil have introduced the 'What Three Words' location finder on the online version of our programme. Although Neil explained this many months ago, not so many have loaded the necessary app; if interested, check the details restated within the newsletter.

Also, guidelines permitting, the Christmas lunch and walk has returned, and details of this are also noted in the newsletter. Enjoy this programme of winter walks.

Tony Langford

PS. Having returned from 10 days on the sunny Sussex coast, the walks programme is filling up more but still only a few leaders, so the request for more members to become walk leaders is still critical.



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The future President who died over New Delight Covert

On my walk from the Dunwich five-ways, on the 21st of June, as we headed north on the track to Westwood Lodge, the group briefly paused at an area in the New Delight woods where an aircraft had crashed in August 1944. It had been piloted by Joe P Kennedy junior, the older brother of John F Kennedy and the future President of the USA. Since the walk I have been asked if I can furnish a few more details of the background to what happened.

Joe junior was already politically active before the war and was backed by his father Joe Senior, who had been ambassador to Britain, to one day become the first catholic President of the USA. However, the war intervened and he joined the navy, flying Liberators from Devon, hunting for submarines and eventually did 25 missions.

So, all was well, until August '43 when his younger brother John made a lot of news in the USA, after his Torpedo patrol vessel was cut in half in a collision with a Japanese warship and he saved most of his crew over several days on remote islands. Joe's father then suggested that, perhaps to increase his profile after the war, he should do something outstanding as well.

So, even though he had done enough missions to go home on leave, he volunteered for operation Aphrodite. This was an operation where war weary American bombers were disarmed and converted for remote control from another aeroplane. The idea was that the planes were filled with about 12 tons of explosive and a crew of two then took off and climbed and once they were sure that the chase plane had got control, they parachuted out over the UK leaving the controlling chase plane to fly the flying bomb over the North Sea and crash it into a major target.

Thus, it was that on the 12th of Aug '44, after taking off from RAF Fersfield, near Diss, Joe and his co-pilot Wilford Willy were heading north at about 2000 feet over Dunwich Heath. Willy was establishing the communications to the chase plane, or at least he should have been. However, during the process, the whole plane blew up in a huge explosion, killing both the crew and damaging houses in Blythburgh and the surrounding area. Small parts of the plane were blown over a huge area and started many fires but the heavy parts of the Liberator, such as engines and under carriage, and much else, landed in New Delight Covert woods and set that on fire. No parts of the crew's bodies were ever found, even though wrecked parachutes that would have been very close at hand to them were found in the hedges on the B1125 Blythburgh to Westleton road.

Having searched the New Delight area in the 1990s to find the crash site, the mad sort of thing walkers do, I was very satisfied in 2017, on a visit to Arlington cemetery to see JFK's grave, to find that adjacent to it was a memorial to his older brother Joe (*see photo opposite*). It is also reported that most of Joe's siblings, including JFK, visited the crash site in the 1950s when passing through the UK.

Paul

Shellingford - 4th time lucky for Waveney Ramblers !

Our intrepid leaders, were determined that our week's walking holiday in the Cotswolds would happen and it finally did, at the end of September 2021.

Despite COVID and Brexit, as well as a last minute fuel crisis, thrown in for good measure, 20 of us enjoyed a fabulous week's walking.

There was plenty of fine weather to enjoy the open countryside and woodland, with a few hills, to remind us that we were not in our usual areas of level paths and coastal vistas.

With good accommodation at Shellingford, Oxon, our walks enabled us to see plenty of timbered buildings, Cotswold stone dwellings with thatched roofs, churches with 'sunken' floors and beautiful wall paintings, as well as a magnificent barn at Great Coxwell and a Neolithic Long Barrow burial place at Wayland's Smithy, just off the Ridgeway. A Folly at Faringdon, a close view of the Uffington White Horse, as well as numerous sightings of Red Kites, added to our many memories.

We even had time for the odd pint, cake, a rest or a spot of retail therapy along the way!

Diana and Barry have now moved far away from the Waveney Valley but I'm sure this holiday will be remembered by many as their Shellingford Swan Song.

RCK - alias Rosemary



**Kennedy Memorial
at Arlington Cemetery**



Reydon Walk in July



Sitting poles apart for lunch on Waveney River Walk



Paul and 8 ladies
... phew!



Neil emerges from the sunflowers



5-Ways Walk



Apple stop
on Westhall walk



Walking among the roses in July

COTSWOLDS SPECIAL



Coleshill coffee stop



Banbury Hill, one of several steep climbs



Great Coxwell Barn, c.13th

Historic houses and golden churches





Faringdon Folly, 100ft



Buckland Warren walk



Guess who's got new boots?



Ancient Yew forest

Lunch stops are always welcome

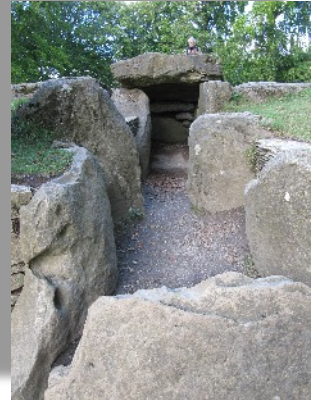




Ruins of Minster Lovell Hall, c.15th



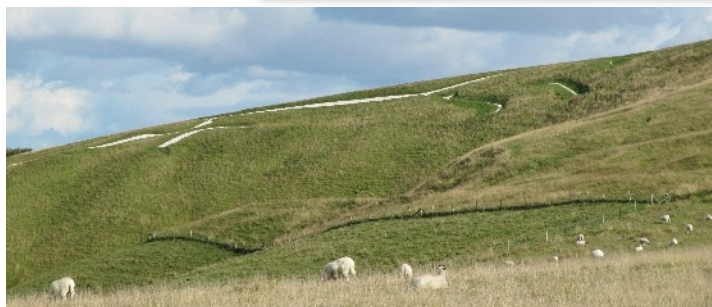
Wayland's Smithy, Neolithic long barrow



Picturesque Bibury



On the
Ridgeway



The iconic
Uffington
White Horse

Good views from
White Horse Hill



This White Horse
is somewhat more
refreshing





Westhall Walk



Lound Lakes walk



**New Members on
Westleton Walk**

What is what3words?

What3words divides the world into 3-metre squares and gives each square a unique combination of three words. It's the easiest way to find and share exact locations.

The app is available to download from Apple or Google and is free. Of course, you do need a smartphone. On the www.waveneyramblers.org.uk website, each walk has these icons:



1. Phone the walk leader
2. Navigate to the start using the Google Maps app - live congestion avoidance.
3. Navigate to the start using the What Three Words app.
4. Get more information about the walk.

You can do this on your desktop, tablet or phone without having loaded the app but you get more out of it with the app on your phone.

There are other reasons why it's worth downloading the app: Police have urged everyone to download the smartphone app. They say it has already saved several lives.

///kicked.converged.soccer

These three words saved Jess Tinsley and her friends after they got lost in a forest on a dark, wet night. They had planned a five-mile circular stroll through the 4,900 acre woodland Hamsterley Forest in County Durham on a Sunday evening. But after three hours they were hopelessly lost.

"We were in a field and had no idea where we were," the 24-year-old care worker from Newton Aycliffe said. "One of the first things the call-handler told us to do was download the what3words app," Ms Tinsley said. "I had never heard of it." Within a minute of its download, the police said they knew where the group was and the soaked and freezing walkers were swiftly found by the Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team.

OUR WALKING HOLIDAY

Twenty Waveney Ramblers, to Shellingford we went,
To enjoy a southern Cotswold holiday, that was the intent.

My brand new Brasher* walking boots coped well with the
terrain,
And walking up and down those hills was really not a strain.
[*No blisters!*]

The weather: it was kind to us and, thank the Lord for that,
I am so glad I haven't got to buy a brand new prayer mat.
[*The old one is still working fine.*]

The company was jolly; we really had a ball,
The scenery was spectacular and enjoyed by one and all.

Although no longer local, our ex Chair and Secretary,
[*now residing in Wiltshire*],
Organised this holiday and made most members merry.
[*Evening gin and tonics did the trick.*]

David Harmer

.....
* Other brands are available.

finally, don't forget . . .



Contributions for next edition of *The Waveney Rambler* (Newsletter) should be sent, by **22nd Jan, 2022**, to: **Tony Langford**, 16 Holton Road, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8HF (tel. 01986 875694) or email to: langfordajs@hotmail.com. Please note that articles ought not exceed **350 words**, unless approved by the editor. **Your photos are always welcome - the more the merrier.**