

## **Manor Walking Club**

### **Restart of the Club programme**

#### **Introduction**

All of the following arrangements may be changed at short notice in the light of Government restrictions and Ramblers UK advice. In any case, the proposals are for a trial period.

The Club committee is of the view that we should publish a limited programme of walks. In England, groups of over six are exempt from the 'Rule of Six' (14th September regulations) as stated on the Ramblers website:-

<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/coronavirus>

The rationale is presumably that Ramblers UK and affiliated clubs will be operating under the banner of a recognised organisation which has clear rules and guidelines for safe outdoor activities. We should note that Ramblers UK expects that local groups will decide upon maximum group sizes.

Your committee feels that a limited programme published now will help to ensure that the Club can return to 'normal' operation in due course. It will also enable members who have not linked in to any of the informal 'mates groups' to book into walks on the programme. There will, however, need to be a number of changes to the way we have operated previously.

#### **The Walks**

For the trial period, the walks will be offered on a Thursday only, fortnightly from 24th September. This is to facilitate a simple system for booking places on the walks. Two grades of walk will be offered for each date. This can be modified in the light of future demand. The walks will be B&C alternating with C&D.

'A' walks will return to the programme in due course but at this stage we feel they are not necessary. The locations would probably not be local, making the journeys less appealing for independent travel. Many Club members may feel that they are not yet 'mountain fit' and we are approaching the time of year when day length and weather have tended in the past to lead members to offer 'B+' rather than 'A' walks. We also feel that the fortnightly programme gives 'mates' the opportunity to do 'A' walks in private arrangements, independent of the Club if they so wish.

Walks on the Club programme will have a maximum group size of 10. However, if a leader feels that for parking or any other reason that the group size should be smaller then the smaller size will be the one published.

We will no longer meet at our 'E' or 'W' assembly points. Walks will start from the locations where cars are parked. The Club committee cannot set rules for travel, but as social distancing will be a requirement for attendance on the walks it is likely that members will travel independently or in family bubbles.

In planning their walks, leaders must have regard for parking arrangements and the concerns of rural communities. We will also be asking leaders to record attendances on the walks, as

explained in the following section.

### **Booking a place on a Club walk**

The Club has always been grateful for the willingness of members to volunteer to lead walks. We are now asking for more help through managing the bookings for their walks and keeping the attendance records for a short time. We appreciate that this is an additional chore but we would be very grateful for this cooperation.

We are asking leaders to take the bookings for their walks, **in the period Sunday to Tuesday (inclusive) prior to their Thursday walk (only)**. When the walk is published, the preferred contact method - mobile or land line - will also be published. In order to maintain privacy, the programme page will therefore in future be password protected. If for any reason a Club member wishes to offer a walk but does not want to share their contact number to members in this way, would they please contact me.

If a member finds that they cannot after all go on the walk they have booked a place for, would they please contact the leader before 7.00pm on the day before the walk. Leaders may have a waiting list so that the place can be taken up. If a group is full, the leader can contact me and I will alert members to this - it will save the leader having to respond to more phone calls.

### **Covid19**

In order to establish conditions on Club walks which are as safe as is reasonably possible, a number of additional rules will need to be followed. These are spelled out on separate document and will be added to our Safety Code.

Our Insurers have confirmed that our policy is unchanged and unaffected by the pandemic. However, they do require that we include mention of Covid19 in our risk assessments. Our risk assessments have previously been the recces for walks and the practice of flagging up of any unusual or additional risks, for circulation prior to the walk date. This has been risk management rather than assessment via a risk score. As the hazards of countryside walking are generic, we feel there is no need to change the Club approach. Would leaders simply therefore please flag up situations where they judge that it could be more difficult to maintain social distancing or to avoid sources of infection. For example a walk involving an unusually large number of stiles would be worth flagging up.

It is a requirement that the organised outdoor activities have mechanisms in place for tracing. We therefore ask that walk leaders take the names of attendees and keep the list for a period of three weeks before tearing it up and discarding. A simple proforma will be provided for these lists.

### **Finally**

All the above will be kept under review but we hope to offer at least four cycles of the programme in a trial period.