

Essex Area Update

Volume 2 Issue 10

February 2005

Important

- AGM on February 12 at Margaretting Village Hall
- We want writers to increase the day to day publicity the RA receives
- We need up to date details of your Officers and representatives on the Area Council

Another New Walking Year

We were rather premature, in the last edition of **EAU**, to suggest that it was the final occasion to remind you of the **AGM on February 12 at Margaretting Village Hall.**

This really is a key date in the Area's diary and, as we mentioned last month, it is only reasonable that as many as possible should turn up to recognise the huge amount of work done by the officers and to make sure that the Area policies are those which most closely represent views of the individual Groups.

It is also worth remembering that it is the Area Council which actually calls the shots (the EC merely carries out policy) therefore it is imperative that Groups not only elect representatives to the AC but makes sure that they attend the two or three meetings which are held each year.

Getting back to the AGM, it is likely that three of the key

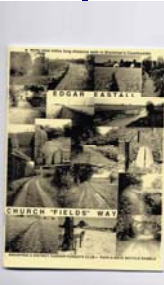
issues to be discussed will be: how we deal with the burgeoning reserves?; what is the future of the Essex Hundred and other Area-run events?; and how we are to tackle our noticeably lower recruitment figures (compared with other areas).?

Remember that, once you have solved these problems from **9.30 on the Saturday Morning**, you will have the opportunity to go on one of two grades of walk in the afternoon.

A group including Kevin Ascott and John Dowding recently met with an Paula Cheesman (ECC RoW team) to discuss the relaunch of the **St Peter's Way**. Area Officers will be surveying the route during January and February; in March and April we hope that Groups will provide working parties to assist with clearance and new furniture; and hopefully, by

mid year a new book will be produced to guide us through the newly signed route. Any Group keen to be involved with the project should contact Len Banister.

And finally, it seems that nearly every month a new book about walks in Essex is published—most re-work old themes but January saw the publication of a booklet with a completely new slant. *Church "Fields" Way* describes a 39 miles long walk based on the "Fields" ranging from Panfield to Gosfield. It has been written by Edgar Easton a long serving member of the Essex Area Executive and features excellent descriptions and useful maps. Although the pictures are not up to much, this is a snip at £1 (send a cheque and SAE to John Spratling, 3 Beaufort Gardens, Braintree, CM7 9JY



Proposed Museum

Alan Coday of the Mid Essex Historic Buildings Trust has asked Kevin Ascott to draw the Ramblers attention to a meeting to be held in the **Parish Room, Tollesbury at 7.30 p.m. on the 10th February 2005**

The object is to rescue "**The Woodrolfe Granary**" with a view to it becoming a Maritime

and Natural History Visitor Centre (Possibly with potential for holding meetings).

MEHBT Project Organiser
C/o "Oaklands"
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Danbury
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His e-mail is
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Publicity

The West Essex Publicity duo of Pat and John Juchau scored a major success when one of the Group's Winter Walks was featured as top of a list of 50 in the national *Independent*.

**RAMBLERS—
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See EAU in dazzling
colour on the
Colchester web site:
[www.colchester-
ramblers.com.co.uk](http://www.colchester-ramblers.com.co.uk)

Registered Charity Number
1093577
Company reg. Number
4458492

Adrian's Update

The December meeting of the Executive Committee confirmed the strong financial state of the Area with a predicted surplus of £6414 for the financial year bringing the reserves up to £31000. Of course it is not in the Area's interest to have this money just sitting in its accounts. We hope that Groups will ensure that their representatives on the Area Council bring forward plans for development in line with the RA's charitable objectives.

The Woodland Trust has produced a detailed analysis of access to woodland in the uk. The RA is going to send copies to Access Officers but if any Group would like its own copy you can obtain one by going to: www.woodland-trust.org.uk/woodsforpeople/index.htm

Diary Dates

12 Feb—AGM, 9.30 at Margaretting Village Hall
5 Mar— Area Quiz, Chelmsford

8-10 April—General Council

18-24 June— Use Your Paths Week

3-11 Sept E 100

Writers

We have had some responses from people prepared to commit themselves to writing 2 or 3 walks a year for the **Essex Chronicle** but we still need a lot more people to make the scheme viable and not place too much of a burden on a handful of individuals.

To volunteer, just contact Darryl Webber of the *Go Leisure* section of the **Chronicle** on **01245 603 428**. When he has a sufficient number of authors he will get in touch with some outlines to enable you to present your work with as little trouble as possible..

Well Known Author seeks help with Nelson

The Nelson Way

For my second long distance walking guidebook I have recently completed a walk of 425 miles from Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk to HMS Victory, Portsmouth and vv, to mark the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar. I hope to publish the book in spring 2005.

The book will contain a potted history of Horatio Nelson's life and will expand on the locations associated with him along the route (although there are none in Essex, unless anyone knows differently).

I would not wish to publish a walking guidebook without it being independently checked. My request is to ask for volunteers amongst your readers if anyone would like to kindly walk and check my writings of route descriptions. Volunteer checkers would receive my most grateful thanks, and if

they wish, gain a mention in the acknowledgment section of the published guidebook. In addition I can offer a signed complimentary book for the section checked.

The sections that need checking are:

Section 8 West Bergholt to Terling via Gt Tey, Coggeshall and White

Notley & vv Section 9 Terling to Epping via Fuller Street, Chatham Green, Pleshey, Good Easter, Willingale and Chipping Ongar & vv.

If such a task would interest anyone please make contact with Mr L Ham, 9 Manor Court, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 8RF. Tel/Fax: 01932 841271, email

les.ham@virgin.net
NB. Please note that I will be out of the country between 30 Jan-20 Feb 2005
Many thanks. **Les Ham**