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Rambling on about Car Sharing

One way to promote social interaction, improve mental well-being, and save money on transportation is by encouraging car sharing for group walks. Car sharing has benefits and drawbacks, as well as its significant potential to combat feelings of isolation and loneliness.

Pros of car sharing for group walks:

- 1) **Environmental benefits:** Sharing cars among multiple people reduce carbon emissions and encourages an eco-friendly lifestyle.
- 2) **Cost savings:** Sharing cars cuts individual transportation costs by distributing expenses among participants, making group travel more affordable and appealing
- 3) **Parking convenience:** Car sharing can reduce parking problems at popular spots and walk meeting points by decreasing the number of vehicles.
- 4) **Enhancing social connections:** Attending group walks through shared car rides can promote meaningful conversations and connections among participants. Such interactions have the potential to alleviate feelings of isolation and loneliness.
- 5) **Encourages participation:** Car sharing addresses transportation and cost-related concerns, making it possible for people who may have otherwise been unable to attend to join group walks. This fosters inclusivity and enhances walking community engagement.



Cons of car sharing for group walks:

- 1) **Coordination challenges:** To avoid logistical challenges and frustrations, organising car sharing requires careful planning for timely and reliable pick-ups and drop-offs, including factors like timing and punctuality. This is especially true for those being picked up.
- 2) **Limited personal space:** Sharing cars can be uncomfortable for some, especially if they value personal freedom or have specific cleanliness or upkeep standards.
- 3) **Safety concerns:** Trust is an essential aspect of car sharing, as participants need to feel secure about their driver's skills, reliability, and the general condition of the vehicle.
- 4) **Vehicle size limitations:** Not all participants may have a car suitable for accommodating multiple passengers and their outdoor gear for group walks. This will limit the number of participants who can engage in car sharing.
- 5) **Hinderance to spontaneity:** Some individuals prefer walking because of its flexibility, but they may avoid car sharing due to the mandatory nature of fixed schedules and routes.

Impact on isolation and loneliness:



Sharing cars is a great way to facilitate social interaction within walking groups by overcoming transportation barriers, reducing expenses, and promoting engagement.

Although there may be some concerns regarding logistics, safety, and personal preferences, car sharing is an effective solution to address loneliness and isolation while creating meaningful connections among people who enjoy walking.

By combining sustainable transportation with regular group interactions, car sharing can improve mental well-being, overall health, and the environment. **Doug Pigg + AI**

Hedging Verges and Opinions

Dear Editor/Doug - I've been reflecting on hedges and verges since the Ramblers Dorset Zoom meeting with The Great Big Dorset Hedge at the beginning of March 2023.

I and some other Rambler members remember when subsidies were paid for removing hedges, so it's much better that replanting them attracts subsidies from ELM (Environmental Land Management) – how Government will pay for land-based environment and climate change.

The part of Dorset that I know best is south and west Dorset, but I've driven across the whole of Dorset, noting the beautiful and varied Dorset landscape: woods, heath, scrub, copse, marsh, rivers, estuary, coast and beaches in addition to water meadows and fields. A hedge would not be appropriate in all of these locations, and I doubt that it would thrive under a canopy of trees or in marshland.

I am lucky enough to monitor a stretch of the Jubilee Trail from Lower Kingcombe to North Poorton. After walking this section and trimming back overgrowth on the path over many years, I think it would not be improved by any more hedges.



Whilst walking and cycling over the seasons, I've been struck by the beauty of the verges. These grassy spaces beside roads, tracks, and paths are home to very different flora and fauna from those found in hedges. So verges increase ecosystems and diversity.

Verges are essential for the safety of those who opt for sustainable transport, either walking, cycling, or riding. Walkers, cyclists and riders can retreat to a verge as an emergency refuge when facing on-coming traffic on narrow lanes.

Verges improve visibility for all road users, especially on bends. An advantage of a verge, which lies between a road and a hedge, is that the latter can grow without impinging on the carriageway. That may improve the hedge habitat and ease maintenance.

OSS (Open Spaces Society) is a charity that champions community spaces and its website strives to protect verges. The website is full of interest on both historical and contemporary issues. Whilst in Northern Germany in 2019 and 2021, I was struck by the beauty of the verges covered in wildflowers, see photo above. I don't know whether the landowner sowed them, the local authority or self-sown, but there was a flamboyant mix of poppies, yellow rattle, cornflowers, marigolds and many others that I couldn't name.

So I hope the current ELM scheme improves the countryside for flora, fauna and the human population. **Jill Vines** *This letter contains my personal views, not those of the Rambler group.*



Introducing an E Letters Section

Ramblers is a walk-and-talk organisation. A letters page in E Footnotes encouraging members to submit their viewpoints fits that ethos. The Editor will have to manage and edit the content, advising contributors of any omissions/ changes before publication.

Most readers receive E Footnotes, which is flexible in size. However, the printed version of Footnotes has to be 4, 8 or 12 pages. A letters page, or two, are, therefore, easy to add.

The next Footnotes will have a receipt deadline of around 5th September. If you would like to submit a short letter or opinion, please email me at douglas.pigg@gmail.com.

It will help me if you place Footnotes Letters in the Subject box.

Doug Pigg

Ramblers AGM of General Council at Birmingham NEC Saturday 1 April 2023

Mike Heckford and Jan Wardell were the Dorset delegates to GC for 2023, but unfortunately, Jan could not make the event. General Council (GC), scheduled for one day starting at 1030 and finishing at 1730, was opened by the Chair to the Board of Trustees (B of T), Rebecca Dawson, who welcomed delegates and drew attention to the Notice and papers for the meeting.

Minutes of the 2022 GC were approved without amendment, with thanks to Janet Davis for compiling them. A presentation by Ross Moloney, the new CEO, and various senior staff members followed this. As usual, this was a very upbeat presentation detailing the charity's progress during the past year and plans for taking the Ramblers forward in the coming year.

The business of the AGM of GC followed. The Treasurer presented the accounts for the financial year to 30 September 2022 and explained the differences between the 2021 and 2022 accounts. The external Auditors had signed off the accounts, and thanks were also passed to Area and Group treasurers for their work. In addition, the charity's auditors, Crowe UK LLP, were re-appointed.

The outgoing President, Stuart Maconie, could not attend but sent in a visual presentation thanking the Ramblers for help and friendship during his five years as President. Amar Latif was elected president, and readers may like to read about him on the Ramblers website. Nine Vice-presidents were up for election, all re-elected. A further eight former Presidents, including the outgoing President, remain as Vice-presidents without needing re-election.

A vote had to be taken for election to the Motions Review Committee (MRC), seven candidates for five positions and the B of T, 13 candidates for three positions.

The rest of the morning session was taken up in discussion by groups of delegates to discuss a Ramblers Strategy Review. Although it started in February 2022, this was the first opportunity for GC delegates to have their say. A further meeting of delegates is expected later in 2023.

The afternoon session was taken up by reviewing past motions and dealing with new motions.

New Motions for 2023

- 1) **One Member, one vote for the B of T Elections.** Carried.
- 2) **Electing Trustees and voting on Motions.** As the content of this motion was similar to Motion 1, which had been carried, the motion's mover sought to withdraw and agreed.
- 3) **General Council Format.** The Dorset Area had amended the original motion to emphasise the need for a provision for visitors. The amendment was accepted, and the motion carried.
- 4) **Campaign to lobby Local Authorities to honour their legal obligations with respect to the ROW Network.** The Dorset Area successfully amended this motion to emphasise the need for adequate funding from Government in England and Wales. The motion was carried.
- 5) **Wild Camping on Dartmoor and the need to expand right to roam and improve access opportunities to open and green spaces for everyone.** Carried. The Dorset amendment was withdrawn at GC.
- 6) **Leisure walking in London and other Urban Areas.** This motion had been subject to an earlier unsuccessful appeal against actions by the MRC. The mover accepted amendments. Carried.
- 7) **Ensuring that Area and Group Activities are better understood by Ramblers' Staff.** This motion was subject to three amendments, all accepted and eventually carried.
- 8) **Urgent implementation of single sign on.** Considered unnecessary by GC and lost.
- 9) **To return to Member Activities alongside Volunteer Activities.** – this motion was remitted to the B of T as there was no time available to debate it.

GC was closed by the Chair on time, after thanks to the staff and Janet Davis, the minute taker. The outgoing members of the B of T were given a small present for their services.

In summary, GC was well-organised and ably chaired. Sadly, and as usual, the full number of motions could not be debated.

Mike Heckford

Changes to Rights of Way in Dorset

Orders affecting changes to the following rights of way have been confirmed since DFN Issue 93. Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs) and Public Path Orders (PPOs) are again being processed by Dorset Council and can be found [here](#).

Confirmed Orders

(# identifies any New Numbers)

Beer Hackett FP15 (part):	} Modification to correct routes.
Beer Hackett FP19:	
Church Knowle FP30 (part):	Modification to correct route (confirmed by SoS with modification)
Longburton FP18 (part):	Diversion (S119, HA 1980)
Poole FP135#:	Modification to add footpath (confirmed by SoS)
Poole BR131#:	Modification to add bridleway (Canford Heath)
Poole BR132#:	Modification to add bridleway (Parkstone Heights)
Poole BR134#:	Modification to add bridleway ('Lilliput')
Portland FP15 (part):	} Diversions (S119, HA 1980)
Portland FP17 (part):	
Stourpaine FP13 (part):	Diversion (S257, TCPA 1990)
Wareham St Martin FP30#:	Modification to add a footpath
Weymouth FP85 (part):	Modification to correct route.
Weymouth FP144 (part):	Diversion (S257, TCPA 1990)
Weymouth FP164#:	Modification to add a footpath



Please note that unless otherwise stated, the above Orders are also made/confirmed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981(Section 53A (2)) #New number.

Long Term Temporary Closures/Diversions under Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984: Section 14(1) or 14/2 (unless otherwise stated) all are needed to comply with H&S Regulations.

Cranborne BR25:	From GR SU 0494 1355 to SU 0544 1338, from 03 May 2023, for 26 weeks, to install a foul pipeline. Anticipated completion 10 May.
East Stour FP1:	From GR ST 810 251 to ST 811 252, from 3 April 2023, for 26 weeks. to construct a new water main and new foul rising main for the housing development at Ham Farm Gillingham. Alternative route
Gillingham FP57 (part):	From GR ST 796 259 to ST 796 260, from 03 May 2023 for 26 weeks, to allow safe access to construct a housing estate. Alternative route.
Gillingham FP61:	From 27 October 2022, extended to 27 October 2023 due to the demolition and erection of a replacement outbuilding which would prove a risk to the general public. Alternative route.
Gillingham FP50:	From GR ST802 259 to ST 805 262, from 3 April 2023 for 26 weeks. to construct a new water main and new foul rising main for the housing development at Ham Farm Gillingham. Alternative route
Horton FP9:	From GR SU 0773 0692 to SU 0810 0648, from 01 May 2023 for 26 weeks. To allow National Grid to carry out Overhead Line Refurbishment works. Alternative route.
Horton FP10:	From GR SU 0689 0611 to SU 0782 0634, from 01 May 2023 for 26 weeks. To allow National Grid to carry out Overhead Line Refurbishment works. Alternative route.
Owermoigne FP19:	From GR SY 752 813 to SY 754 814, from 27 th January 2023, for 26 weeks. To allow work to take place on the caravan site. Alternative route.
South Perrott BR4 (part):	From grid reference ST 476 064 to ST 478 064, from 15 August 2022, extended to 15 August 2023. Environment agency work. An alternative route for pedestrians only.

- Sturminster Newton FPs 10 & 12 (part):** FP10 from GR ST 7933 1434 to ST 7910 1413 and FP12 from GR ST 7902 1425 to ST 7910 1412, from 08 May 2023 for 26 weeks. To allow construction of housing. Alternative route.
- Verwood BR9:** From GR SU 1007 0897 to SU 1092 0889, from 01 May 2023 for 26 weeks. To allow National Grid to carry out Overhead Line Refurbishment works. No suitable alternative route.
- Verwood FP10:** From GR SU 1020 0787 to SU 1029 0797, from 01 May 2023 for 26 weeks. To allow National Grid to carry out Overhead Line Refurbishment works. No suitable alternative route.
- Verwood BR23:** From GR SU 0888 0742 to SU 0917 0693, from 01 May 2023 for 26 weeks. To allow National Grid to carry out Overhead Line Refurbishment works. Alternative route.
- Verwood BR41:** From GR SU 1010 0760 to SU 1013 0751, from 01 May 2023 for 26 weeks. To allow National Grid to carry out Overhead Line Refurbishment works. Alternative route.
- Verwood BR12:** From GR SU 0960 0730 to SU 1014 0594, from 01 May 2023 for 26 weeks. To allow National Grid to carry out Overhead Line Refurbishment works. Alternative route.
- Verwood FP22:** From GR SU 0888 0741 to SU 0859 0687, from 01 May 2023 for 26 weeks. To allow National Grid to carry out Overhead Line Refurbishment works. Alternative route.
- Wimborne FP8 (part):** From 20 January 2023 for 18 months (extension). From GR SZ 0052 9998 to SU 0026 0008 To allow Wyatt Homes to construct a residential development Alternative route.

(Please Note: All the above closures are for Health and Safety reasons. Any person who uses or permits the use of the footpaths in contravention of any of the above orders will be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1,000.)

Jan Wardell

Ramblers – East Dorset Group

Purbeck Plod – Sunday, 25 June 2023

Start at Swanage Pier at 0830 and 09 35 (12-mile route only) walkers – 09:30 runners

(Entry on the day, please arrive at least 20 minutes earlier)

25 miles via SWCP, Kimmeridge, Ridgeway Hill, Corfe Castle, Nine Barrow Down, Ballard Down

A shorter **16-mile** route is available for walkers only, Coast Path, Corfe Castle and Ulwell – 08 30 start and an even shorter **12-mile** route for walkers via the Coast Path and the Priest's Way – 09 35 start

All finish by 20 00 at All Saints Church Hall, Swanage

Entries and Information – please contact Event Secretary – email

PurbeckPlod@eastdorsetramblers.org.uk or click on the Purbeck Plod page online at

www.eastdorsetramblers.org.uk

Please can you help out on the day?

We need marshals to help out at the Start and Finish and at Checkpoints. Please contact Gill Hale (edgsec@outlook.com) if you can help.

For Your Diary

2023 Celebrate the opening of SW Coast Path – Evening of 10 June 2023

Enjoy the opening of the newly named King Charles III England Coast Path with family and friends at a free Silent Disco held at the Nothe Fort on 10 June 2023.

[England Coast Path Celebrations in the South West - National Trails](#)

2023 Dorset Area AGM – Morning of 18 November 2023

The Dorset Area AGM will be held on the morning of November 18th 2023



The Ramblers' Association Dorset area is a part of the Ramblers' Association, a registered charity (England and Wales number 1093577, Scotland SC039799) and a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (number 4458492). *Current Registered Office: 1 Clink Street, 3rd Floor, London, SE1 9DG. Changing – see below*

Ramblers is Moving Offices

From 12 June 2023,

Our Registered Address will change to The Ramblers, First Floor, 10 Queen Street Place, London EC4R 1BE. Our London office address, where we are physically based, will be The Ramblers, 13 Dirty Lane, London SE1 9PA. This address should be used for anyone wishing to write to us.

Dorset Area - Inter Group Walks Sunday 11th June 2023

Choose a walk (or make your own way to the venue) and meet for a picnic at Chardown Hill (GR SY 391934) between 12.30 and 13.00 (Explorer Map 116)

Meeting Place: Symondsburry, Meet at church GR SY 445936 dispersed parking in the village (car share recommended)

Start time: 9.30am Distance: 13.5 miles. Strenuous
Golden Cap, Morecombelake and Ryall

Leader – Andy White: 01202 840335, 07946 973775
East Dorset Group



Meeting Place: Seatown CP (Fee) GR SY 420918

Start time: 10.30am Distance: 7 miles. Moderate - very hilly.
St Gabriel's Church, Upcot, SW Coast Path and Golden Cap

Leader - Kate: 01305 772126, 07733 171499
South Dorset Group

Meeting Place: Langdon Hill CP (National Trust) GR SY 413931

Start time: 10.30am Distance: 6 miles Moderate – very hilly

Directions to start: at the Eastern end of the lay-by, turn south west off A35 at the top of Chideock Hill, GR SY 412934. After 100 metres, turn left on to narrow road, CP is 400 m ahead.
Golden Cap, Stonebarrow, Morecombelake and Filcombe Farm

Public Toilets at Stonebarrow

Leaders – Sheila and John: 01305 265049, 07403 104180
South Dorset Group

Meeting Place: Stonebarrow Hill CP (National Trust) GR SY 382932

Start time: 10.30am Distance: 4 miles Moderate - hilly
Stonebarrow Hill, Chardown Hill, South West Coast Path.

Refreshments/toilets at the end of the walk.

Leader – David Coleman: 07842 478585
Dorset Young Walkers

Meeting Place: Symondsburry village CP (free) DT6 6HG. GR SY 445937

Start time: 10am Distance: 12.5 miles. Moderate to Strenuous
Colmer's Hill, Morecomblake, Golden Cap and Thorncombe Beacon

Please book by text (include full name) 07766 473720

Toilets at Seatown and end of the walk.

On return refreshments at the Ilchester Arms

Leader – Dave: 07766 473720
Dorset 4050 Walkers Group

In case the weather is hot, remember to bring a packed lunch and ample drinks. Kindly note that dogs are not allowed unless specified otherwise.

Special Offer - Dorset Jubilee Trail Guide – Issue 4

In memory of Rosemary Bramah, who for many years looked after the Trail on behalf of Ramblers in Dorset

The updated Jubilee Trail Guide was published in 2020 and includes changes to the previously published route of the Dorset Jubilee Trail, especially in the Bincombe area.

It is now on offer at £7.00, including postage and packing (a saving of £2.50)

Copies of the previous Jubilee Trail Guide - Issue 3 are also available and while these are not up to date, having been published in 2008, much of the route of the Dorset Jubilee Trail is the same and where there are changes the route is well waymarked.

These are available at the very reduced price of £3.00, including P&P

Please email jtshop@dorset-ramblers.org.uk for further details

Payment can be made by cheque, please make cheques out to Ramblers – Dorset Area
It is easy and cheaper to pay direct by e-transfer, please ask for payment details in your email

The Great Big Dorset Hedge

Facilitating the restoration and extension of hedgerows across Dorset.

Do you love nature and wildlife? Do you want to help make Dorset a greener and more beautiful place? If so, you might be interested in joining The Great Big Dorset Hedge campaign!

The Great Big Dorset Hedge is an initiative by the Dorset Climate Action Network which aims to facilitate the restoration and extension, where appropriate, of hedgerows across Dorset. The project is currently focusing on surveying hedgerows across Dorset to assess the health of hedgerows.



The initial plans are to survey the major trails of Dorset, such as the Jubilee Trail, the Wessex Ridgeway, the Stour Valley Way, the Brit Valley Trail, the Wareham Forest Way and the Purbeck Way. In addition, where other connections can be made with landowners, we are keen to survey all the hedgerows of Dorset.

Why is this important? Because hedges are amazing for biodiversity and climate action!

They provide homes and food for many animals, plants and fungi. They also help reduce air pollution, prevent soil erosion, store carbon and enhance the landscape.

You can get involved by visiting or following their website on social media. You can also learn more about hedges and how to care for them. <https://www.dorsetcan.org/hedge>

The Great Big Dorset Hedge is a great opportunity to make a difference for nature and have fun at the same time. So join the campaign today and be part of something big!

The Vision:

Our Aim is to facilitate the restoration and extension of hedgerows across Dorset. The Great Big Dorset Hedge is not one continuous hedge along The Jubilee Trail.

It may take a generation for it to be achieved, but we can imagine a network of connected, well-managed hedgerows stretching across Dorset, north to south and east to west so that every community has an opportunity to get involved.

By helping to restore the hedgerow network of Dorset, we aim to create vital habitat connections, linking fragmented ecosystems, including rural to urban areas where gardens are a vital refuge area for wildlife and a source of biodiversity. This is why it is the Great Big Dorset Hedge.

We want to catch the imagination of people across Dorset, so the campaign takes shape and grows alongside the hedgerow. Imagine gaps or lost connections in a being planted up, in many cases by local tree planting groups with the young and old working side by side, connected by a common desire to see more hedges and trees in Dorset.

We hope the Great Big Dorset Hedge will help people to feel more connected with the places where they live and work, with nature, and with their communities through a shared scheme that actively helps nature recovery.

**WALKING HOLIDAYS
HERE, THERE
& EVERYWHERE**

Walking is even more wonderful when shared with others. Choose any of our holidays and we'll contribute funds through The Walking Partnership to your group. Just tell us their name when you book.

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ramblersholidays.co.uk
Rambler's Holidays R