



SLR NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN, 2019

www.stokelodgeramblers.wordpress.com

Editorial

Apologies for missing out the Newsletter last Autumn, but hopefully this will make up for it. There are some lovely, humorous, interesting articles and plenty of dates for your diaries. My thanks to all the contributors.

I gather we have several members who are willing to sit on the Committee and take an active part in running the club and, as I am standing down, my thanks and good wishes to them all.

I'm also hoping someone is ready to take over the newsletter - it doesn't have to be someone on the Committee. So, **please think about it**—it's fun and there are plenty of excellent writers out there who are only too willing to provide something worthwhile. I've thoroughly enjoyed it and trust you will do, reading it!

Helen Palmer

New Members

Marwen Alkhaul,
Carole Kluth, Ram Naidoo &
Frances Spring-Naidoo joined since the
last AGM

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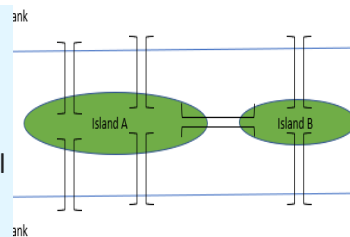
Phil Quartly, Keith & Dianne Yeandel,
Deirdre O'Doherty and
David & Debbie Palczyynski joined the
year before.

Welcome to you all!

A puzzle...

The Königsberg Bridge Problem comes to Bristol

Back in the early 1700s, the good people of Königsberg (now Kaliningrad in Russia) had to make their own entertainment. The city was built on both sides of the river Pregel, which had two large islands in the middle - we'll call them A and B. A was joined to the town by two bridges from the north bank and two from the south, and B had one bridge to the north and one to the south. One bridge joined A to B.



So, was it possible to walk around the town crossing each of these bridges once and only once?

Apparently this generated a good deal of entertainment until Leonhard Euler (Swiss mathematician, physicist, astronomer, geographer, logician and engineer) tackled the problem and proved that there was no solution. In the process, he had to develop a whole new way of looking at things, to establish this proof with mathematical rigour.

What this led to was graph theory and the development of topology - without which we wouldn't have google maps, or the Internet - so thank you Euler.

You might think that if it can't be done for seven bridges then there would be no point attempting it in a city like Bristol, but you'd be wrong. A few years ago, Dr Thilo Gross, who teaches at the University of Bristol, set out to see if it could be done here, and the result is a 28 mile circular walk, with a suggested starting point of the Clifton Suspension Bridge, crossing the 45 walkable bridges spanning Bristol's main waterways once, and only once. And there is a book illustrating each bridge, and giving some history: 'From Brycgstow to Bristol in 45 Bridges' by Jeff Lucas and Thilo Gross.

Bristol is the first city in the world to publish a solution (closely followed by New York), and it occurred to me that we could consider setting this as a club challenge - a bit like the Butcombe Brewery Trail we did a few years ago, dividing it into sections over a few months. Some of the walks involved might be too urban for some, but equally they might lend themselves to winter 'short' walks. Let me know if you're interested in trying to pull this together!

Sue Hazelden (with excitement and relevance added by Paul)

2019 Weekend Away

Many of us had never previously visited **Shrewsbury**, a medieval market town originally built in a loop of our own River Severn. It turned out to be an inspired choice in that those who didn't want too many challenges, for whatever reason, were well catered for while the more adventurous kept the Stoke Lodge Ramblers flag flying by showing typical fortitude against the elements!



Aerial view

Once again the club holiday was run by Secret Hills Walking, the company led by Alan Garner, who were originally introduced to us many years ago by Davina. Their HQ is in Church Stretton and our first long week-end in the Shropshire hills with Secret Hills was based at the Long Mynd Hotel which is now an HF house. Sadly HF have a rigid regime and cannot tailor to suit the requirements of a club such as hours, unlike Secret Hills who seem to have local leaders all over the country and can be persuaded to adapt to our chairman's wishes!

We stayed at the Lion Hotel, a 16th century haunted coaching inn, which boasted impressive public rooms including a magnificent ballroom accessed via an Adam staircase. Not surprisingly this was not matched by the rooms and the lift not working. But we aren't worried about these minor things, are we? Save for the fact that on Saturday night the ceiling collapsed during dinner in one of our rooms.



Shrewsbury Centre

As usual we were treated to a local orientation walk on the arrival afternoon. Highlights included the rebuilt St Chad's church AD1792 of circular design and Percy Thrower's garden built in an old quarry.

The following two full days of walking were in the Long Mynd and Stiperstones hills with the benefit of coach transfers 'door to door' to Church Stretton and the aptly named Bog Centre respectively. All of the walks provided good examples of the superb countryside in the Shropshire hills. We were treated to baguette type pub lunches on both days which provided good opportunities to sit down in the dry, pile up outdoor gear and then leave walking sticks behind! The interesting thing about the pubs is that chips seem to be served with everything. There were plenty left over.

On the last day we were offered an interesting walk in the Coalbrookdale/Ironbridge area. Inside these wooded hills there were interesting examples of past industry of which the highlight was Abraham Derby's blast furnace. Until 2017 they used to make AGA cookers in this area. Not a lot of people know that.

Our thanks to everyone involved in making the SLR long week-end holiday such a success. Having had a break from last year's event I for one am refreshed and looking forward to the Purbecks next year.

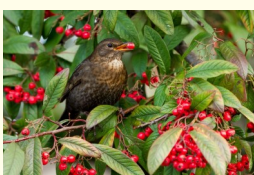
Dick Dennett

Nature Corner

Autumn Berries

According to the Met Office, Autumn in the northern hemisphere started on 23rd September. Even before then we were aware of the classic signs of the season; darker evenings, leaf colour changes and, particularly spectacular this year, all the berries on the trees and hedgerows. The rowan, hawthorn, holly and elder trees, the sloes and rose hips, ivy and honeysuckle climbing over everything and the brambles which produce perhaps the most accessible and delicious berries for walkers.

Berry production is, of course, a clever way of seed dispersal, enticing animals to spread them far and wide. Seeds are encased in an often brightly coloured, juicy, fleshy coating which rewards the animal vector, usually birds, with vitamins and energy—it is said that the pith of ivy berries contains almost as much energy as a Mars bar! In fact, some berry seeds grow better after passing through a bird gut—this removes chemicals which would otherwise impede growth. The colour of the berries is to make them more obvious to birds; the berries of evergreens, e.g. holly, are often red; blackberries contrast well with leaves that have turned yellow or brown.



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Walking near Livestock

Members' Contributions

Sadly Sue's younger sister Pip was trampled by cattle and seriously injured early in September while walking her dog on a public footpath in the Peak District. She is now very much better although not yet fully recovered but with this in mind, we are giving the advice from the Ramblers Association when walking with dogs and around cattle (<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/advice/safety/walking-near-livestock.aspx>) - also applicable to horses.

- Do** - Stop, look and listen on entering a field. Look out for any animals and watch how they are behaving, particularly bulls or cows with calves.
Try to avoid getting between cows and their calves.
Be prepared for cattle to react to your presence, especially if you have a dog with you.
Move quickly and quietly, and if possible walk around the herd.
Keep your dog close, on a short lead, and under effective control.
Remember to close gates behind you when walking through fields containing livestock.
Report any frightening incidents or attacks to the landowner, the highway authority, the Health & Safety Executive (HSE), and also the police if it's of a serious nature.



Don't hang onto your dog if you are threatened by cattle - let it go as the cattle will chase the dog and not you.

Don't put yourself at risk by walking close to cattle – find another way round the cattle and re-join the footpath as soon as possible.

Don't panic or run – most cattle will stop before they reach you; if they follow, just walk on quietly.

Cattle on your path—so, what do you do when cattle are obstructing the path?

Find another way, by going around the cattle. If cattle are blocking a path through a field, you're well within your rights to find a safe way, away from the path to avoid them. You should then re-join the footpath as soon as possible – and when you consider it safe to do so.

Sue Hazelden

Social Visit

Wraxall Vineyard

Eight of us visited Wraxall Vineyard on a beautiful sunny Saturday in August. The Vineyard lies on a beautiful warm south-facing hill which is situated south of the Mendip Hills in Somerset. It is the perfect location for growing a variety of grapes that capture the very essence of English wine.

The owners, Jacky Brayton and Brian Shirley had just celebrated 10 years at Wraxall Vineyard—Brian showed us around giving us all a potted history of wine making there. They believe really good wines are produced from healthy fruit, so their winemaking starts in the vineyard. Their work has been focused on bringing the soil and the vine canopies to their present level of quality production.

New varieties were planted in 2008 producing award winning white and rosé wine. In 2013 they released their first white and rosé sparkling wine which immediately won acclaim and international medals. Adding sparkling wine to their range has been both exciting and rewarding for them.

Ten years after re-establishing Wraxall Vineyard they are thrilled to have put it back on the map of great Somerset vineyards.

May 2017 saw them planting more Pinot Noir vines which supplemented their Rosé and their Somerset sparkling wine. We are told that it takes 100 days of sunshine during the growing season to make a good Pinot Noir red wine. That target is still elusive but an exciting prospect.

Their wine is made by award winning wine-maker Steve Brooksbank whose new winery is on the other side of Wraxall Hill.

We thoroughly enjoyed the tasting of the sparkling wines especially and most of us bought some before leaving to go for lunch at the Natterjack pub nearby, after a very successful day out.

Gill Dunphy



Club Events

Christmas meal and walks -Thursday 12th December, 2019

Christmas lunch, to be held at the Long Ashton Golf Club - 2-course meal, £20.00; 3-course meal, £22.00 including coffee/tea, mince pies & gratuities. Please send your choices and payment to Hilda Ball - forms available at the AGM but places limited. The venue was a great success last year—thanks Hilda. (See website.)

New Year's Day lunch and walks—1st January, 2020

New Year's Day lunch is at the Swan in Tytherington at 1.30 and Sue Hazelden is coordinating meal bookings. See website for further information.

Spring Social and Summer Outing

Details to come, although it has been suggested we go to Paignton for a steam train ride !

Weekend Away

Sunday, 27 September—Wednesday, 30 September The Pines Hotel, Swanage

Secret Hills will take us to this cliff-top hotel overlooking Swanage Bay, with private steps down to the beach. Further details and booking will be in early in the New Year.



Next lunch—Thursday, 7th November, 12.30 at Hunters (formerly Venue 35), 135 Stoke Lane, BS9 3RW.

Occasional lunches

A **call to all members and past members of SLR** to keep our bi- (or tri-) monthly lunches going. There has been a dropping off of numbers recently which seems a pity when you consider all those miles we happily covered together! Perhaps a rethinking of venue might be right, somewhere with a lounge where we could talk before moving on to lunch or is my thinking too expensive? Does anyone have any ideas on any aspect of the matter. Either phone me (0117 949 4832) or email donandpat@btinternet .com . I shall be delighted to hear from you.

Pat Walter

[Our grateful thanks to Lili de Beaufort who has organised these lunches admirably over the last two years or so, and to Pat who has now kindly agreed to carry it on. Editor]

Nature Corner - contd.

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While berries are an important food source for birds, we can use them too, in jams, jellies and drinks.

Sugar is usually added to conserves as berries are often very tart, and alcohol for the drinks. Herbalists have always used a number of berries to treat various ailments. **It is essential however to identify with certainty any berries before eating, as some are very poisonous**, classically yew and ivy.



A glass of damson wine?

Sara Willmott

Walk Leaders' Meeting

A meeting for all walk leaders on Thursday 7th November in the Eastfield Inn in Henleaze from 7pm - a sharing of expertise on the use of electronic aids to plan and walk out routes. David McGregor will demonstrate the OS MAPS app, Gill Carter the use of a phone with OS maps and maybe others to explain how Map my Walk, Street Map and other applications work.

Tree Sponsorship

SLR has sponsored a tree through Bristol City Council. A 'Populus nigra Italica (Lombardy poplar) will be planted in the Trymside Open Space off Sea Mills Lane. Once we know the tree has been planted we will arrange a walk and photo-opportunity to celebrate the event.

Memorial

Jean Sutcliffe's relatives have had a gate installed near Nympsfield (Map ref 801 00) and Jean's ashes are buried nearby. I am sure we will want to visit the site and remember the wonderful walks Jean led.

David McGregor

Club Matters