

2026 EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT AGM REPORT

From Claire Branscombe and Margaret Chalmers

Claire and I have enjoyed organising what we hope has been a varied and enjoyable programme for members this year. Our aim, as previously, was to try to organise events in different areas, especially the Club walks so members from different parts of London, the Home Counties, the Cambridge area and further afield had a chance to attend at least one event. This has worked to varying degrees which might be due to dates when members have free time rather than locations. Work in progress!

WALKS:

Our first walk was in April over the Dunstable Downs. Ideal walking weather and enjoyed by a select few of us. Roger and Kay came up from London by train to join us. The walk might have been too close to the end of the skiing season to attract more people. We planned it then to avoid being too close to Greg Clack's early June walk. Unbelievably now, considering the subsequent heatwave Greg's walk was cancelled due to extreme rain and winds

Greg then rescheduled the 10 mile walk in the Surrey Hills to August, by then the heatwave had hit. Fortunately, his walk was up through shaded woods to Ranmore Common following the Downs Way and back to Denbies Vineyard.

Our thanks to Greg for organising such an enjoyable and well attended walk. Both walks are designed to challenge our fitness levels up and down hills. Hopefully keeping us fit for roller skiing and skiing.

JUNE ACTIVITIES:

Deal weekend:

This varied weekend activity proved to be popular with rollerskiers from Hillingdon and Cambridge, some members joining in on different days. Gerard and Maria came up from Sussex on the Friday to join us at Walmer Castle and gardens.

Saturday we walked from Dover back to Deal, somewhat surreal to hear fog horns and be in sea fog for the morning, luckily this lifted later for good coastal views. The prize goes to Greg Bell for overcoming train delays and catching up with us an hour after we had started.

Sunday Rollerskiing at Betteshanger Park

Those of us roller skiing enjoyed exploring a new cycle circuit, a lot longer than Hillingdon and meeting up with Kent members and Barbara Grogan their rollerski coach. Many thanks to Barbara for liaising with us, so we could sort out a date to join in with her lesson and organise the weekend. It was especially nice that she could join in with the Saturday evening meal, so we could get to know her beforehand.

JULY:

KAYAKING

After the successful trip last year. Claire organised another session with Edge whose leaders took us up the Thames from Kew Bridge to Richmond, providing instruction en route. A fun trip. Kate Forrester won the prize on that occasion travelling down from the Midlands to join us.

September events to come at time of writing:

12th Cambridge busway and meal.

19-26th Sea Kayaking in Greece Kindly organised by Mary Wray. We really appreciate all the effort she has put into the trip and finding us a different area to explore this year.

STILL TO COME

The year hasn't quite finished, there are still some dates for members to look forward to.

Club Dinner on 14th November, 7pm Trio Belvedere Road London SE1 7GQ (Southbank)
Same venue as last year as it was well received last year.

Pizza Party 29th November Hillingdon After the rollerskiing session

Mince pie rollerski tour in Richmond Park on 12th December, thanks to Gerard Evans.
Followed by an Iranian meal.

Claire and I would like to thank everyone for their help and support this year, in particular to Mary Wray for all her help and patience with I.T. for the events.

Finally, any ideas for 2027 events would be welcome. Anyone wishing to organise an activity please contact us. Thank you to everyone who attended events this year.