**The DATROWS Newsletter June 2025**

**Chairman’s Report**

Once again, we have had a very successful walking programme over the past 12 months with a walk available every Sunday, including some during stormy weather. A huge thank you goes to Jan and Steve for the organisation and of course the walks leaders themselves. A vital part of our activities, as such I encourage new walks leaders to take part. We have averaged around 15 walkers per walk with the short walks edging it on attendance. A gentle reminder we have an Accident Book, but so far it remains empty, long that remain so!

Membership has been around 90 paid up members, thank you Angela. Our social side has again been very active this year, a festive meal at The Anchor in Wingham. Thank you, Stella. A walk and tour around Sandwich is planned for June.

Finance – Mike has ensured our insurance costs remain competitive and arranged some sponsorship from Holiday Foundation. After some toing and froing Mike has managed to change banks; we are now with Metrobank in Canterbury. The previous one, Lloyds, was becoming rather expensive.

We held our AGM on 21st March at Woodnesborough. I can’t recall much about it as Val and I were in Cumbria! “Sorry”. Steve was able to however update on the DATROW website progress. The Waymarker has now become more of a newsletter sent out online. However, we now have a Website thanks to Steve taking on the challenge. Find it under DATROWS, Dover and Thanet Rights of Way Society. Jan Tebbett has taken on the task of collating the contributions for our newsletter so please send her submissions for inclusion.

We are developing closer links with East Kent Ramblers, who have a very similar walking ethos to ourselves. We have been invited to join their walk from Littlebourne on May 21st and then join a quiz afterwards. Some of their members have become members of DATROWS and joined us at our festive meal at the Anchor. Stop Press: we had 7 or 8 members present at the EKRC quiz, thank you all. I am please to announce that a DATROW team came first.

We had a tour of Sandwich Heritage buildings by Mike Elmes, a member of the Sandwich Heritage Society. We visited the Roman artifacts, the old courtroom, the Magna Carta and then various heritage buildings in and around Sandwich, pointing out different architectural styles and what influenced that, such the influx of Huguenots escaping persecution from the Catholics in France. . All very fascinating. A big thank you to Mike of the heritage society for conducting the tour.

Thank you, Roger, for informing us of PROW activities, where there is much activity partly down to extensive house building in the area. Thanks also to Les as our meetings secretary.

Finally, a big thank you to all our members, who turn up on a Sunday or Saturday in all weathers supporting our walks and activities and of course the leaders who make it all possible, not forgetting the walks coordinators Steve, thank you.

And finally Jan our newsletter editor who duly reminded me my contribution was outstanding, not anymore! I hope you all have great holidays wherever they may be.

**Jerry**

**Treasurer’s Report**

At our AGM in March members were advised that your committee had agreed to change our bank account to a more friendly bank who were not going to charge us a monthly fee and charge for depositing and sending cheques. This has now been done, and the Society’s account is now with The Metro Bank. Details of the account for those members using the banking online system to send money to the Society are:

Account name: The Dover and Thanet Rights of Way Society.

Sort Code: 23-05-80.

Account No: 55990786

For those of you who were unable to attend our face-to-face AGM in March and therefore did not see the Society’s accounts please be informed that your society’s accounts are healthy and at the end of the financial year (28th February) money in the account totalled £3572.12 up £318.80 from last year. During the year we were sent £50 from HF Holidays for using their logo in our newsletter and £50 from Ramblers Worldwide Holidays, thanks to members going on their holidays and mentioning DATROW. If any member wishes to see the accounts for the end of the financial year February 28th 2025, as presented at the AGM, just email me and I will email you a copy.

There are still a few members who have not paid this year’s subscription of £5 per family. I would urge anyone who has not yet paid their subscriptions to do so. Best wishes to all from me.

**Mike**

**Membership Secretary’s Report**

Hello everybody!   Wow it’s hot enough for us all now…….   But perhaps not so comfortable for our furry friends.

I am happy to report that we have about the same number of members as I mentioned in my last report…..   ie 90 in total though I am still waiting for 2025 subs from 7 DATROWS members.

There are 22 of us that are signed up for our walking holiday in October.  We are going again to Littlecote House Hotel near Hungerford.  It is all inclusive of meals and entertainment. I am sure we shall all enjoy the location again as there is a lot of good walking to be done in the area.  The payment balance is due in July and I will email everyone when the deadline is due.    Meanwhile I hope to meet you on a walk soon.  With my best wishes to everybody.

**Angela**

**Social Secretary’s Report**﻿

In February we enjoyed a lovely festive meal at the Anchor in Wingham. The food, service and company were excellent. In June we had a very interesting walk and talk around Sandwich, learning interesting things about the history of Sandwich. We also visited the Guildhall Museum and admired some of the artefacts.

We are now looking forward to our skittles evening at the Chance Inn Guston on Thursday 24th July and the annual garden party at Jerry and Val’s house on 3rd August. We continue to enjoy both walks and friendship.

**Stella**

**Walks’ Secretaries’ Report**

We’ve continued to have a walk every week of 2025. Of the 27 walks so far, there has been an average of 14 members on each walk, with slightly more on the leisurely walks. Especial thanks to all walks leaders, and to Roy Davis who led for DATROWs for the first time, and welcome back to Les Oliver – one of the most experienced leaders we have. In the second half of the year we will be trying out two walks that are outside our usual ‘patch’ – namely, Jerry’s walk from Wye and Roy’s walk from Selling. There is also another breakfast walk to enjoy. Once again we’ve enjoyed the company of walkers new to DATROWs, and hope that the website will attract more people to the group.

**Steve & Jan**

**PROW Update: LOCAL RIGHTS OF WAY NEWS from Roger**

**Do report problems to KCC**

Not a lot right now to report from KCC – for whom the White Cliffs path clearers do a great job (see the WC Facebook pages). So just the usual line to say – do report any problems you encounter to KCC online, to inform their future actions, e.g. the upcoming summer Cropping Campaign and path clearances, at: <https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccesscams/standardmap.aspx>.

**Local Development Proposals (seem to be everywhere!)**

 **- Whitfield development: plans submitted to Dover DC for the area immediately north of the A2, and two new developments between Archers Court Road and the Parish Church.** Under the reference 25/00172, detailed plans have been submitted for the area of housing to be constructed north of the A2 and east of the A256. Unfortunately this will mean the end of footpath ER54 as we know it.

Also,outline planning permission granted (ref.25/00830) for 309 houses between Archer’s Court Road and Whitfield church which will effectively swallow up the whole of footpath ER62, although this FP has been blocked for many years where it leaves Archers Court Road (GR 311 455). And, detailed plans approved (ref. 25/01458) for 430 houses between the present north-eastern edge of the village and the parish church. This will absorb the whole section of footpath ER63 between the church and Beauxfield.

 **- Large residential development west of Nash Road, Margate, approved**

This is the “Humbers Mill” development of 1,461 new houses. To be built on agricultural fields, this will affect the Half Mile Ride bridleway (TM11) just south of Margate Cemetery, which crosses the site from Nash Road in the east, where it is a grass track, and connects to Manston Road on the west where it is paved. It also affects bridleway TM16, connecting Valley Road (TM17) in the west, to Nash Road in the east, and footpath TM17, which runs south from Manston Road along the western edge of the site.

**Path change news. Lots happening as always :**

1. **Orders made but not confirmed:**

- **Sutton footpaths EE422/EE423A – upgrading to bridleway status**. This footpath route runs northwards from Sutton Lane (the lane from Ripple to Beacon Hill) at GR 343 501, up to and over Beacon Hill, and then down again to the road at Little Mongeham (GR 333 509). A route often used on club walks.

 **- Sholden footpath ED56 - upgrading to restricted byway status.** This path runs from Sholden church north-east along the Sholden/Deal parish boundary as far as Church Lane at GR362 523. The route already has a tarmac surface and is extremely well used.

 **- Kingston - new footpath (CB553) south of the village along the old Elham Valley Railway track.** This order will create a 1/4 mile footpath from the southern end of footpath CB542 at GR 199 510, over the old railway bridge above Covet Lane, and into Barham parish, essentially along the trackbed of the former Elham Valley Railway. It will run south-east as far as the track carrying bridleway CB230 at GR 201 508.

**- Langdon & St Margaret’s parishes – creation of new restricted byway ER307** A Hugh Craddock proposal which is unfortunately little practical use to man nor beast (literally). The new route would run from Lucerne Lane in Martin at GR 340 470 and run for ¾ mile south-eastwards, passing under the railway. The problem is that it would emerge on the Dover-Deal A258 at GR 351 467, a little way west of Oxney Bottom. This is a relatively narrow, very busy road with no footways and a significant distance from the nearest right of way. No walker or horse rider will feel comfortable to emerge on this road, although things must have been different in 1945, the last time this route was shown on an OS map.

**- Margate – creation of a short urban footpath (TMX45) off the High Street** This order will create a PROW along the short 30-yard footpath from the lower High Street (the sea end) at GR 353 710, eastwards to the Market Street car park. Hardly rural, but it appears to have been something of an issue locally

1. **New proposals**

*-* **Newington footpath HE245 - proposed upgrading to bridleway status of most of this path.**

This slightly complicated proposal would effectively upgrade almost all of footpath HE245, which runs from Peene north-westwards for almost a mile. For most of its length it runs parallel to, and just west of, the track of the old Elham Valley Railway. It would also include:

(i) the creation of a short new section of bridleway at the Peene end; and

(ii) the creation of a short byway open to all traffic from just north of Coombe Farm at GR 171 391, to bridge the gap between HE245 and the main Elham Valley Road south of Etchinghill.

**- Hougham parish *-* claimed upgradings to restricted byway status and a byway creation.** Four separate proposals in the area from West Hougham village eastwards to Poulton Farm (where the banger racing track is), and Soval Pond (a PROW “junction” at GR 276 410). I will provide full details if and when KCC decide there is enough evidence to make the necessary orders.

**c. Orders confirmed**

Although it happened a while ago now, you may be interested to learn that three orders I mentioned in the December Newsletter have all been confirmed. They are:

**- Creation of a new restricted byway east of Westmarsh (Ash EE501)**  Running the whole length of Corner Drove, an established track, which runs from Ware Road (a lane SE of Westmarsh) at GR 284 608, for a mile northwards out onto the Stour Levels, to connect with footpath EE65 at GR 285 677, just south of the river.

**- Upgrading to restricted byway of part of Ash footpath EE66 east of Westmarsh** This is the eastern section of EE66, from the Corner Drove track, east of Westmarsh at GR 285 614, eastwards for 1/3 mile to Paramour Street at GR 290 616. The route is already a grassy/dirt track on the ground.

**- Creation of a new bridleway (Hawkinge HE376) south of the Alkham Valley Road (Hawkinge HE376)** This runs from a point on the Alkham Valley Road opposite Church Lane at GR 227 392, generally SE for 800 yards up to Cutthroat Lane at GR 232 388. The latter is also an existing track (with public access rights) running from a point further east on the Alkham Valley Road through to Crete Road East above Folkestone, and the N Downs Way.

Should you want more details of these changes, or any others in the pipeline, please contact me, Roger King, on 07779 533583, or e-mail roger.rambler89@outlook.com

**Roger**

**Dates for member’s diaries**

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| **Thursday 24th July 2025** | **Chance Inn Guston** | Skittles evening. 7 for 7.30pm |
| **Sunday 3rd August 2025**  | **Garden party at Jerry & Val’s** | 3pm. Bring a plate of food to share. Further details to follow |



**Datrows Committee**

Chair- Jerry

Treasurer – Mike

Membership Secretary – Angela

Social Secretary – Stella

PROW Officer – Roger

Walks Secretaries – Steve & Jan

Minutes Secretary – Les

The next newsletter will be issued in December 2025.