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## **Walking Forwards. Issue 9, November 2008**

**Hello,**

If you're stuck for gift ideas this Christmas why not buy your loved ones a subscription to the Ramblers' Association? It's a great value gift for any outdoor enthusiast.

Got the winter blues? Don't let the cold weather get you down this winter. Wrap up warm and take the family out for a brisk stroll. It's fun, will get you fit and, of course... it's free!

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### **ABOUT US**

We are Britain's biggest walking charity. We've been working for over 70 years to promote walking and to improve conditions for everyone who walks in England, Scotland and Wales.

[www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk)

### **JOIN THE RAMBLERS**

We rely almost entirely upon the generosity of our members and supporters in order to carry out our work.

[www.ramblers.org.uk/join](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/join)

### **VOLUNTEER FOR THE RAMBLERS**

We have opportunities to suit everyone, whether you want to be indoors or outside in the open air, back a big campaign or help out locally.

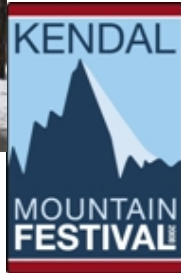
[www.ramblers.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/volunteer)

### **DONATE TO THE RAMBLERS**

As a registered charity we receive no money from the government to carry out our work. Help support our charitable aims by making a donation.

[www.ramblers.org.uk/donate](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/donate)

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## WALKING EVENTS IN NOVEMBER 2008

### 20 - 23 November Kendal Mountain Festival.

The Kendal Mountain Festival is one of the leading festivals of its kind in the world. Grab the chance to rub shoulders with some of the greatest adventurers, climbers and outdoor sports stars around. Main speakers include: Reinhold Messner, Catherine Destivelle, David Breashears; Kenton Cool. [www.mountainfilm.co.uk](http://www.mountainfilm.co.uk)

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## GIVE THE GIFT OF THE OUTDOORS THIS CHRISTMAS!

With a great range of year-round benefits, a subscription to the Ramblers' Association makes an ideal Christmas gift for anyone with a love of the outdoors. Whether solitary strollers or social hikers, they'll receive all the information and inspiration they need to enjoy walking more in Britain in 2009.

### Member benefits include:

- unlimited walking opportunities with any of our 470 groups around the UK
- a subscription to our quarterly magazine, walk (rrp.£3.50 per issue)
- walk BRITAIN accommodation and walking guide (worth £5.99)
- 4-week Ordnance Survey map loans
- discretionary discounts in outdoor stores including Millets, Blacks, Rohan and Cotswold Outdoors.

Membership costs £27 for an individual (or £36 for two adults living at the same address) and every subscription goes directly towards supporting the Ramblers' Associations' charitable work, to protect footpaths and countryside, maintain access rights for walkers and promote walking for health and pleasure.

To take out membership as a gift, please visit [www.ramblers.org.uk/join](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/join) or call us on 020 7339 8595 before 8th December 2008.

## ALL SET FOR COASTAL ACCESS?

A Marine and Coastal Access Bill has been promised for inclusion in the next Queen's Speech so it looks like the English coastal path and spreading room will be coming soon.

However things can change very fast. Huw Irranca-Davies, the MP for Ogmore, recently replaced Jonathan Shaw MP as Minister for the Natural & Marine Environment, Wildlife and Rural Affairs and worrying reports emerging from Westminster suggest that concerns over the size and complexity of the Bill may mean that the coastal access proposals are dropped.

How can I help?

It is now more important than ever that we maintain the pressure on Government. We have produced a clear and simple letter for you to send to the new Minister asking him to ensure that the coastal access elements of the Bill are included in the Queen's Speech on 3rd December.

Please follow the link below and take the time to add your address to the letter, then date,

sign and post it.

Every letter sent will be a vital contribution to our campaign effort. Thank you in advance for your support.

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## **SMARTER CHOICES SMARTER PLACES**

Ramblers Scotland had a successful exhibition and fringe event at the Scottish National Party October conference in Perth.

The aim was to engage with the Scottish Government's new sustainable travel initiative, "Smarter Choices Smarter Places".

The initiative is a partnership between the Scottish Government and COSLA, the representative body for local authorities in Scotland, designed to increase active travel and public transport use, and tackle transport emissions in Scottish communities. Seven "sustainable transport communities" were identified in August for funding through the scheme.

Ramblers Scotland will meet representatives from each identified local authority next month, starting with East Renfrewshire Council on 12th November, to discuss ways to integrate our work on Core Path plan development and a health legacy for Scotland from 2012 and 2014 with work connected to Smarter Choices, Smarter Places. The meetings should prove a useful platform to campaign for better paths in Scottish communities.

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## **FILMS ON FOOT SUCCESS**

The Metropolitan Walkers joined forces with the British Film Institute (BFI) to mark the 52nd London Film Festival this October.

They organised seven walks highlighting the capital's landmarks that have been backdrops to hundreds of films. During the two weeks walkers discovered, among other things, the whereabouts of Tom Cruise's safe house in Mission Impossible, visited the legendary Platform 9¾ at Kings Cross and strolled past Hugh Grant's bookshop in Notting Hill. All the walks proved immensely popular and not just because they ended in one of the many pubs, like The Globe in Borough Market, that have themselves doubled as film locations. Thanks to all who came along!



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## **ONLINE PATHS PETITION**

Help us save thousands of paths for future generations. Please sign our online petition now at <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/repeal2026/>

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## **WALKING FACT**

Exercising for ten minutes three times a day is as beneficial as exercising for 30 minutes once a day.

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