

Ramblers' festival celebrates all that the county has to offer 'Getting people off their couches and out walking'

The White Cliffs Walking Festival has put Kent firmly on the ramblers' map.

That was the message from Kate Ashbrook, general secretary of the Open Spaces Society, when she launched this year's event last Thursday.

The ceremony, on Walmer Green, was attended by Dover and Deal MP Charlie Elphicke and Deal deputy mayor Nick Tomaszewski.

Miss Ashbrook said the walking festival, organised by the White Cliffs Ramblers, is a great celebration of all that Kent has to offer.

She said: "In particular, we can now enjoy the new coastal path which has been established between Camber and Ramsgate, with more soon to follow.

"By 2020 we shall be able to walk the entire English coast.

"The walking festival is growing and helped to encourage Dover last year to join the family of Walkers Are Welcome towns, following Deal a few years ago.

"These towns attract walkers because of their excellent facilities and surroundings and their



Members of the White Cliffs Ramblers promote the festival by the White Cliffs

local economies are boosted. The festival enables the White Cliffs Ramblers to show visitors some of their victories in the area – paths saved and access won and some of the frustrations we face with local authority funding cuts and threats of development in green spaces.

"Walkers can enjoy some of the best countryside in Britain."

The walking festival is due to end today (Wednesday). It had 42 walks ranging in length from one to 32 miles.

Among the most popular were the six-mile Tour of Ramparts, Bastions and Batteries of Dover Castle and the two and a half mile Royal Marines Heritage Trail in Deal.

Mr Elphicke said: "The festival is brilliant and walking is

so important. The White Cliffs Ramblers are helping to get people off their couches and exercise in our lovely countryside."

And Cllr Tomaszewski said: "The walking festival is a wonderful event.

"Here in Dover and Deal we have got some of the best countryside in east Kent and the festival encourages people to enjoy it."



Creative Minds Nursery in Deal still has some funded places available for three and four-year-olds

Nursery offering limited number of funded places

A nursery school in Deal is offering a limited number of funded places to three and four-year-olds.

Creative Minds Nursery in Stanhope Road is giving parents the opportunity to sign up for 15 or 30 hours of government funded child care per week, starting in September.

The nursery was established in 2013 and is owned by Esme Chilton.

She said: "We believe that every child has the creative capacity to

grow personally and intellectually through learning new skills and ways of thinking.

"At Creative Minds we work to provide the spark that will light the learning fuse!"

The deadline for claiming the funded hours is tomorrow (Thursday).

■ If you have a three or four year-old and would like to sign them up or find out more, call 01304 363180 or email wendy@creativemindsnursery.co.uk

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