



Newsletter

August – November 2026

Chair's Notes

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter

Looking outside as I write this, I am reminded that my last contribution to this Newsletter was written on a cold wet day. Today there is blazing sunshine and record temperatures. We have experienced weather of all types of late. I for one have been soaked through on a couple of walks recently.

Whatever the weather we have a full walking programme this year. We have organised more than 100 walks since the start of the year. We can be proud of this as, in comparison with other Ramblers groups, we are more than pulling our weight.

One of the things I have found since becoming Chair is that I have access to parts of the Ramblers website that not everybody has and one of them enables comparison of various factors between us and other groups.

One of these is volunteering. That is doing things in your group beyond just walking. This is principally leading walks, but also includes other things such as path maintenance and serving as a committee member.

Our 100 plus walks so far were only possible with the help of these volunteers, either by organising the Walks Programme, leading the walks or keeping our walking routes maintained.

I compared our volunteering with other walking groups in Essex and we compare well. Out of 18 groups we have the third highest number of volunteers and the fourth highest proportion of volunteers to member numbers.

So thank you to everyone who is volunteering in any capacity for Brentwood Ramblers. Your efforts are ensuring that we remain a strong presence in the Rambling community.

Steve Jessup

Obituaries

We have lost a seasoned Rambler recently, Colin Peak, who will be remembered by some of the long-standing members of Brentwood.

He had been ill for some years following a stroke which left him quite disabled. Colin was also an active member of Brentwood Bowls Club some years ago. He was a quiet man and very well respected by those who had the privilege to have known him.

RIP Colin

Sheila Wasmuth

Footpath Working Party - The Brentwood Bramblers



Since the last Newsletter in April we have been mainly busy clearing footpaths of overgrown brambles, bracken and fallen trees. Battling through excessive heat and rain the team has steadfastly carried on (must be Ann's flapjacks). We also have welcomed Janet to our team. I have attached a before and after picture of a path we recently completed.

Don Clark

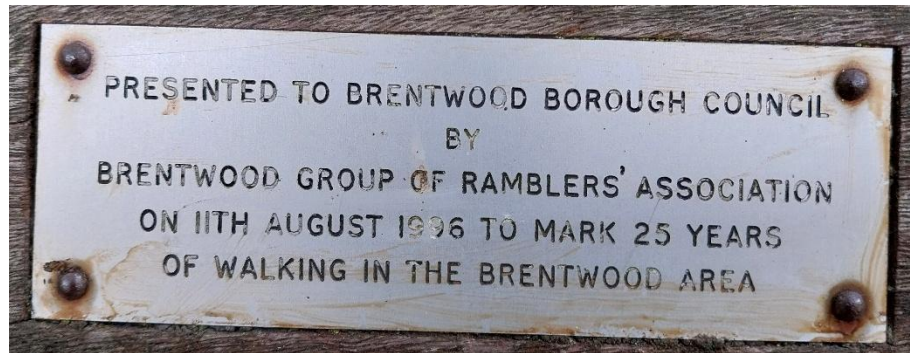
News and Views

Brentwood Ramblers Bench



Has anyone seen this bench on the common at Mill Green? Have you seen any others on your rambles?

Kevin Cline



First Aid Training for Walk Leaders

Although rare, injuries and illness do sometimes occur on the walks we organise. All walk leaders should carry a first aid kit when leading. Many, but not all, of our walk leaders have had first aid training in the past.

We have recently started to offer basic first aid training for those walk leaders who do not have up to date training. The training is by a recognised first aid training company and the course fee is paid for by our group. It is a 4-hour evening training session at Galleywood

I am sure you will be pleased to know that, so far, 15 of our walk leaders have done the course and will thus be better equipped to give you assistance if you are unfortunate enough to require it. There was good representation from each of our Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday/Sunday walk groups.

We will continue to offer this course to new and existing walk leaders.

If you are a walk leader, or are in the process of becoming one, and you are interested in doing this course please contact me and I will make the necessary arrangements. The next course is on Monday 21 September but they continue to be available every couple of months into the future.

Steve Jessup

Past Events

Brentwood Ramblers Holiday to Newcastle 30 May - 6 June

Twenty-seven ramblers were based at The County Hotel in Newcastle–Upon–Tyne.



Our walks took in the coastline and heritage trails, countryside and historic places including Hexham, Corbridge and Durham. One of the holiday highlights was the large numbers of kittiwakes nesting on the buildings, under bridges and also along the coastal cliffs.

The Hotel was ideally situated opposite the railway station, Metro and buses, enabling us to explore areas outside of the city. Fortunately the weather was kind to us with only a few light showers on a couple of days.

We had longer and shorter walk options on most days. Some people opted to explore Newcastle which has a compact walkable centre. The city has a rich industrial history, Victorian architecture and of course the River Tyne crossed by 7 bridges.



Our thanks go to Geoff and Chris for organising the holiday and the walk leaders Mark, Chris, Colin, Kevin, Brian, Sue, and Kathy.

Jane Green

Bookable and Forthcoming Events

Coach ramble to Aldeburgh – August

Visit to Old Amersham – Sunday 6 September

A walk for half and full day walkers to Old Amersham on Sunday 6 September 2026. Morning 5 miles plus optional extra 2 miles. Afternoon 4 miles. Note start time **10.30**.

The walk starts at Chesham Train Station. Meet at Brown Sugar Café, cooked breakfast £4.50. If full: Café Nero, almost next door. Exit station, turn left at T- junction, turn right at High Street T- junction and bear left at Café Nero. (2 minutes' walk).

The journey home is from Amersham Train Station and trains depart at 22 and 52 minutes past every hour. Both stations are at the northern end of Metropolitan Line; Oyster and Freedom Pass are valid.

I plan to get the 8.23 at Shenfield, arriving Liverpool Street at 9.00, and the 9.05 Metropolitan train, arriving Chesham at 10.18. The Metropolitan trains run every half hour to Chesham.

Lunch at Old Amersham.

We will explore part of Chesham, seeing Jacob's Ladder, Lowndes Park, and some interesting buildings and continue along the Chess valley next to the river, climb a hill through some woods and reach Amersham. We pass a Metropolitan steam locomotive and continue downhill past the Martyrs Memorial Monument and onto Old Amersham for lunch.

On a normal day there is a lot to see in Old Amersham such as the Memorial Gardens and award winning flowers and World War II military models, the pretty river and church, as well as the old buildings in the High Street, but it is Heritage Day. So there will be old vehicles, a big market and an open-air free Rock and Roll Band.

Old Amersham has served as a picturesque filming location for Downton Abbey, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1, as well as the TV series Midsomer Murders. There are lots of cafes and pubs but it will be busy so bring food for lunch. The afternoon walk is next to the River Misbourne then uphill to Rodger's Wood, and back to Old Amersham and uphill to Amersham Train Station.

Half day walkers can walk or use the free vintage bus or normal bus no 1 or 1A from Old Amersham to Amersham Train Station. Alternatively meet the day walkers at the Memorial Gardens at Old Amersham for the approximately one mile uphill walk to Amersham Train Station.

I plan to have an Indian Meal in London near Great Portland Street Metropolitan Train Station, so convenient for the journey home.

Colin Raven

Brentwood Ramblers Holiday to Scarborough, October (4 nights)

Brentwood Ramblers AGM - 21 November

Christmas Lunch at Bentley Golf Club

Brentwood Ramblers Holiday to Jersey (7 nights) May 2027

Walks Programme Coordinator Report

We continue to run a comprehensive walks programme with 4 walks per week all year round plus a fifth weekly walk in summer. However, it is increasingly difficult to find walk leaders, especially for our longer walks, so **we would love to hear from anybody who would like to try their hand at walk leading**. Our experienced leaders are ready and willing to help train potential leaders and help set up trial walks.

Wednesday Evening walks have proved very popular over the last couple of years and are useful in attracting new members especially those of working age who can enjoy a relaxing 4 to 5 mile walk on a summer evening, often with the opportunity to socialise in a pub at the end.

Unfortunately, the person who managed the programme for these walks has had to stand down and the role is vacant. **If we can't find a volunteer to take on this role it is likely that this will be the final year for these walks.**

We are seeking someone who is prepared to put together a programme of 20 walks on Wednesday evenings from mid-April to early September. The role involves contacting leaders by e-mail to ask for walk details and publishing start times and locations.

I estimate that the workload **requires** a total of 4 to 6 hours **a year** and, ideally, would suit somebody who would enjoy walking on some Wednesday evenings in order to meet and encourage leaders. **Full training will be provided.**

WaSP list

We maintain a list of **Walk Start Points** which is a resource to allow walk leaders to identify parking places which we have used for our walks over the years. Unfortunately, it becomes outdated as car parks close, or parking charges are introduced.

We rely on people to notify any changes of which they become aware and I would encourage anyone with updated information to let me know the details.

Geoff Sharman

Footpath Secretary

Planning Application for a Travellers' Site

A planning application (Brentwood no 26 00396) has been submitted to change the use of land adjacent to Brentwood Bridleway 13 and Footpath 14, from equestrian to a residential caravan site, and includes the laying of hardstanding and associated works.

I objected to this application as it would result in:-

- a) the illegal use of Bridleway 13 by Travellers motorised vehicles and an increased risk of accidents
- b) the illegal and inappropriate development of the green belt
- c) a loss of amenity value to the public of Bridleway 13 which runs from Ongar Road through to Mores Lane, near Bentley Church
- d) encouraging further expansion to accommodate more Traveller caravan pitches on the site.

Parish Path Adopter version 25

PPA 25 is still undergoing development and testing, however it is proving very useful in targeting our energies on footpath defect resolution. In our discussions with Essex Highways at the User Group, it is clear PPA 25 holds a raft of details which have hitherto been unavailable and help in determining how best to use limited Essex Highways and Ramblers resources.

Cross Field Paths

Historically some cross field paths were obstructed by crops, making passage difficult or, in some cases, impossible. A Ramblers campaign to remove obstructions, supported by Essex Highways Enforcement, resulted in landowners actively clearing paths. That was 3 years ago. This year I surveyed 10 cross field paths in Navestock and found 8 clear of obstructions and easily navigable. Only 2 were not clear. Overall a good situation, similar to last year.

Gordon Bird

PLEASE NOTE! *In view of the fact that occasionally we have had to cancel walks through adverse weather conditions and move a start point of another walk for other reasons PLEASE note our advice at the beginning of the programme and phone the leader of the walk if you have any doubts about it taking place. We do try to warn you of any changes via email, on the website or by announcements on walks, but it is not always possible to ensure that all our members are informed. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.*

Change of Address

If you move home, please remember to let **Ramblers** know: 020 7339 8500
ramblers@london.ramblers.org.uk

Health and Safety

Please see link to the Ramblers website
<http://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/advice-for-walkers/safety-and-equipment/personal-safety.aspx>

BOOKING CONDITIONS FOR TRIPS

Coach Rambles: **Payment is non-refundable.**

Weeks and Weekends Away: **Deposit is non-refundable.**

Final balance must be paid 6 weeks before event. No refund will be given once final balance has been paid, unless we are able to re-sell the place or obtain a partial or full refund for accommodation. Any waiving of these rules can only be considered in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Committee. The final price of events may be subject to minor changes to reflect any unanticipated costs.

Also please note that gratuities are included in the booking fee for coaches on all trips. Gratuities are not included in the booking fee for hotel accommodation. If you have to drop out from any booked trip at the last moment, please let the organiser know. Please note that your trips with Brentwood Ramblers are not covered by insurance so it may be a good idea to take out your own cover.

Please Note:

When payments are made for events, such as holidays, from Ramblers accounts, this is only for convenience purposes and in order to plan appropriately. Therefore, in the event an activity is cancelled or for whatever reason does not take place the Ramblers is not liable for other organisations' financial situations or operational management and will not be responsible for any form of re-imbursement to participants in that activity.



And finally, a few more Newcastle holiday photos from Colin.



