



RAMBLERS

Brentwood

Newsletter

August –November 2025

Chair's Notes

As many of you know the holiday in Jersey was cancelled. Despite many communications between Dianne and Isle of White Tours, they failed to conform to the contractual arrangement of times for the coach pick up in Brentwood, which the Committee had previously agreed, mainly because of ferry company contract changes. Therefore, a decision had to be made either to go ahead with a 3 am pick-up in Brentwood High Street and a return drop off around a similar time, or cancel the holiday and try to find a replacement. It was not an easy task.

Fortunately, with Dianne's persistence, they came up with the week in Bideford on a date a week after the original date. Judging from the comments of those I have seen since who went to Bideford, it turned out to be a very enjoyable week. Dianne did insist on deposits being returned to those few unable to make the new dates.

Filling the walks programmes still seems to be a problem. We all like walking but some are reluctant to lead. So think again, could you be a leader and lead a walk for your group?

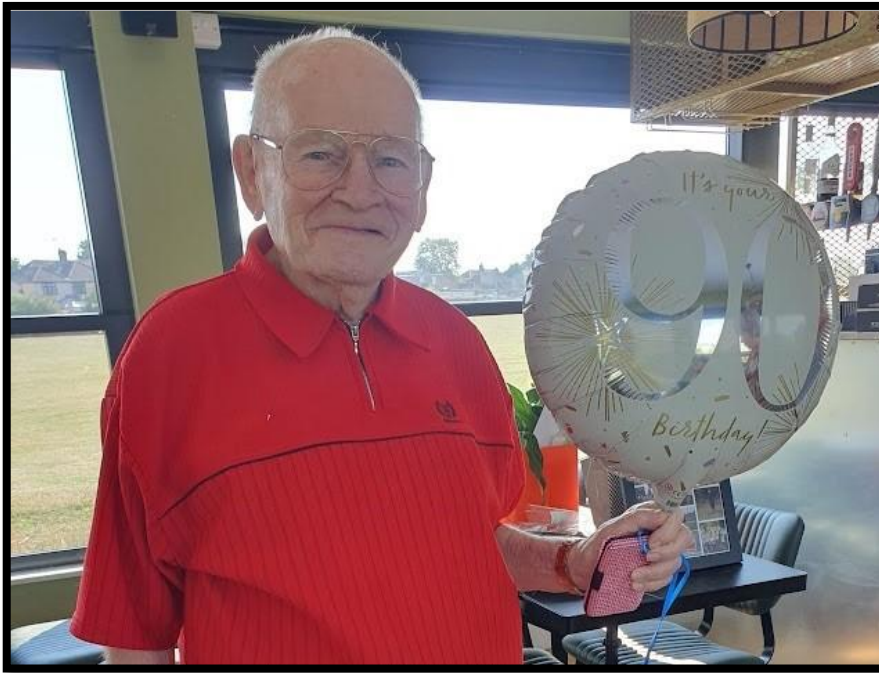
We also need volunteers who would be interested in being elected to the position of Group Chair or Treasurer at the forthcoming AGM on 29 November, 2 important roles in the committee structure. In theory the Group cannot exist without these posts being filled so, if you feel you possibly have the skills, please step forward!

With that in mind, enjoy the remaining walks arranged by your committee Walk Secretaries.

Brian Scroggs

Obituary

Ron Lockhart



We sadly have lost Ron Lockhart who passed away on 10 March. He was still rambling at the tremendous age of 90+ years and quite a character you could never forget.

Ron was one of the Ramblers Leaders who enjoyed imparting the local history of the area whilst walking. He also was a charity fundraiser over many years for his local St Francis Hospice at Havering-atte-Bower.

Ron surely will be missed by all who knew him.
R.I.P.

Sheila Wasmuth

News and Views

WhatsApp Groups

The Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday Ramblers groups now have WhatsApp groups. If anyone would like to be added to any of the groups, then please let Lorraine (Sunday group), Steve (Thursday group) or myself (Tuesday group) know.

Paula Howard

Footpath Working Party - The Brentwood Bramblers

Now the season has warmed, the footpath work has increased and there's brambles and stinging nettles aplenty. The pictures below are a before and after example of our work.

Brambles, nettles and St John's Wort show us no fear;
Getting pricked, stung and poisoned, we don't shed a tear.
We even tolerate hostile landowners when they come near
Because come one o'clock we go for a beer.

Don Clark



Past Events

Spring Litter Pick on 10 March

On 10 March, Brentwood Ramblers supported the Essex Wildlife litter pick campaign. This event was very well attended by Brentwood Ramblers. We managed to collect a large amount of litter, which was taken away by the Council.

The litter pick event also really helped our Facebook visibility. Each Facebook post typically has around 300 views. The litter pick post was shared on the Essex Wildlife Facebook. This post was viewed by nearly 3000 people. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

Barry Sharpen

Bideford Holiday 26 May - 1 June

Our holiday destination this year was Bideford in North Devon. Thirty-two members stayed for 6 nights at The Durrant House Hotel. Bideford proved a good base for those not walking. They were able to explore the coastal towns, visit RHS Rosemoor, and National Trust properties in the area. The holiday was also an opportunity to catch up with friends.

We provided a longer and shorter walk each day. The weather was against us on the first day with periods of wind and rain; however the rest of the week was ideal for walking with a mixture of sun, cloud and light breezes with the occasional sea fret rolling in. Fifteen people braved the inclement weather on the first day, walking from the hotel to Appledore and Westward Ho!

Day 2 was a challenging coastal walk with both longer and shorter options starting at Morwenstow, visiting the Hawkers Hut (the smallest building maintained by the National Trust). We finished at the Rectory Farm Tea Rooms for the first of the cream teas during our time in Devon.

Day 3 was an inland circular walk exploring the countryside. We started at Bratton Fleming village, walked to Wistlandpound Reservoir and on to NT Arlington Court for a lunch stop.

The short walk option was Great Torrington to Bideford along The Tarka Trail.

Day 4 was another circular challenging coastal walk with both groups starting at the village of Mortehoe. One of the many highlights of this walk was watching the seals from the clifftop.

On our last day the long walk joined the North Devon Ramblers for a circular walk from the village of Hatherleigh, walking to the quaint village of Iddelsleigh for lunch and returning along The Tarka Trail. It was interesting to chat and compare notes with ramblers from a local group. They were a friendly bunch and made us feel very welcome. We celebrated the end of a great walking week with a well-deserved last cream tea.

The shorter option was a circular walk on the Hartland peninsular.

Our thanks go to Dianne for organising the holiday and to Chris, Geoff, Kevin, Les and Kathy for planning and leading the walks.

Jane Green

Burnham walk, 8 June



A small elite group enjoyed Peter Crouch's great walk one Saturday from Burnham on Crouch.

As quite often happens, the weather, despite the earlier forecasts, was quite good.

Peter had arranged quite a few interesting sights including our very own Ramblers cul-de-sac, some ocean-going

rowing boats suitable for rowing the Atlantic, barges and windmills, all followed by lunch at the Anchor Pub.

Stefan Sheriden



Bookable and Forthcoming Events

Brentwood Ramblers Holiday to Newcastle 30 May - 6 June 2026 (7 nights)

Following our successful holiday in Bradford in 2023, we are proposing a similar trip to the sister hotel in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. The County Hotel is by the station so there are excellent transport links to get us out into the surrounding countryside for walks. For non-walkers there are many opportunities to explore the cultural heritage of the north-east including museums and galleries in Newcastle as well as good transport links to places like Durham, Alnwick, Hadrian's Wall, etc. Take a look at the website below.

<https://newcastlegetahead.com/business-directory/things-to-do>

The Tyne and Wear Heritage Way provides 80 miles of walking including many interesting areas which are accessible using the Metro system from our hotel in the city centre.

<https://www.tynewearheritageway.org.uk>

There are many other walking options within easy reach by public transport.

Prices per person for bed, breakfast and 3 course evening meal, and including a contingency to cover transport for walks, etc. will be £590 if sharing a city double/twin, £795 for a single, and £865 single occupancy of a standard double. All rooms have similar facilities and en-suite.

Please look at the hotel website <https://www.countyhotel.co.uk/rooms/bedrooms/> for room details before choosing. There is a very limited number of twin rooms, so please book a double if this option is acceptable to you.

Currently, advance rail fares for travel in the next couple of months are £90 to £100 (with senior railcard or group travel) return from Shenfield, so hopefully this will be similar next year. Car parking is available at the hotel for £10 per day. *Please see booking form at end of Newsletter.*

Geoff Sharman

AGM Saturday 29 November

This year the AGM will be held at 2.00 pm on Saturday 29 November at Blackmore Village Hall. There will be a walk on offer in the morning. Further details will be printed in the next Newsletter.

Christmas Lunch - Friday 5 December

The Brentwood Ramblers' Christmas Lunch this year will again be held at Bentley Golf Club, Kelvedon Hatch. The format will be slightly different as, in place of a carvery, we will be served at the table. The cost will be £31 for 3 courses, coffee and mince pies, and service. (Drinks not included.) It will be on Friday, 5 December at 1.00.

A copy of the menu is attached together with a form for you to complete, indicating your choices. There are 2 copies of the form so that, where there are 2 members of the same household, you have a form each (*see end of Newsletter*).

Sheila Wasmuth is kindly helping out this year; if you are on her table(s), please hand your form and money directly to her. **Otherwise:**

- Cheques **only**, please, (£31 per person) made payable to **Brentwood Ramblers Events**. I'm sorry about still using cheques but if you don't have a cheque book, could you perhaps ask someone else to add you to their cheque instead?
- Please send cheque and fully completed form by 7 November to:
Ruth Hannon, 27 Abenberg Way, Brentwood, CM13 2UG
- Any queries, email r.hannon093@btinternet.com
- For those of you not able to print off the form, just hand-write your details and choices and send them to me with the cheque.

It would be great to see lots of you there; it's a really nice opportunity to catch up with those who don't walk with the Group any more, as well as those who walk regularly.

Chris Green/Ruth Hannon

Hanningfield Christmas social

There will be a walk and Christmas social lunch at Hanningfield again this year, date and further details to be advised. Paula and Joan (AKA the Christmas Elves) are working on it!

Webmaster's Notes

Our Facebook and Website pages continue to be popular. We have recently published photos from the group's holiday to Bideford, whilst also continuing to post information about walks.

We are currently developing a new feature within our website: the home page is now linked to our Facebook. This enables people without a Facebook account to view Facebook information and pictures from our website <https://brentwoodramblers.org.uk/>

Barry Sharpen

Footpath Secretary

It's a busy time of the year for me - as the weather improves I go out surveying paths several times a week. As we know, brambles seem to grow at an exponential rate. Typically I find these and other vegetation obstruct paths very quickly. Often, I can clear the way in a few minutes with my secateurs, recognising that the problem will probably reappear in a few weeks. When unable to clear the growth I report the problem to Essex Highways via their on-line system, first checking the path is not on their cutting schedule which can be found at <https://www.essexhighways.org/vegetation-cutting.aspx>

Over the last few years Essex Ramblers were concerned about cross field paths becoming obstructed by crops. As a result, Essex Highways contacted farmers, reminding them of their duty to keep the paths clear. Last week I surveyed 12 cross field paths in Navestock and found all clearly marked and walkable. A first! Thanks go to Essex Highways and the farmers.

A new AI app - I know it's jargon but we must try to keep up with the times – is under test. It displays outstanding PRoW problems in Essex and will enable us to update the present status on Essex Highways website by posting photos captured whilst out walking. Hopefully this will result in a more efficient and effective way of handling footpath issues. More on this later.

Gordon Bird

Walks Secretaries

A big thank you to our walk leaders

As ever, a big thank you to the walk leaders who have led a walk on the current programme or have offered to lead a walk on the new programme. Also, to those members who back mark on the walks and ensure we don't lose anyone.!

We have enjoyed some varied walks on the current programme. John Gregory led 2 circular walks taking in highlights of the Essex Way, which he will be continuing on the new programme in August. We even ventured into Suffolk on a recent walk with Chris Green! (Photos below.)



Following a walk, photos are often posted on Brentwood Ramblers Facebook page.

Paula Howard
Tuesday Walks Secretary

Editor's Notes

Thank you to all our contributors for this edition. Articles and photos are always welcome. If you would like to submit an article, please send it to me: r.hannon093@btinternet.com

Please also send any photos to Barry for inclusion on the Website and Facebook.

Ruth Hannon

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>

Brentwood Ramblers Committee Members 2025			
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Treasurer	Pat Woods	01277 215567	p.m.woods@uel.ac.uk
Membership Secretary	Lesley Williams	07923260585	lesleywilliams04@aol.com
Mailchimp Editor Rambles Secretary – Sunday & Bank Holidays	Lorraine Hayward	07973 416206	Lorraine.Hayward@outlook.com
Rambles Secretary - Tuesday	Paula Howard	07709 064871	paula.howard382@btinternet.com
Rambles Secretary – Wednesday	Frankie Carpenter	07733 077872	frankiecarpenter@ymail.com
Rambles Secretary - Thursday	Steve Jessup	07564 390188	steve.jessup@btinternet.com
Rambles Secretary - Saturday	Dianne Ingram	07966 426386	dinkygram0@gmail.com
Bookings Secretary	Chris Green	01277 823097 07810 525250	chrisgreen49@yahoo.co.uk 15 Appletree Crescent Doddinghurst CM15 0QS
Footpath Secretary	Gordon Bird	07801 471776	gordonbird.ramblers@outlook.com
Footpath Working Party Co-ordinator	Don Clark		dclark51@outlook.com
Newsletter Editor	Ruth Hannon	0774 6291154	r.hannon093@btinternet.com
Webmaster Facebook Editor	Barry Sharpen		barry.sharpen@gmail.com

Next Committee Meetings

1 September, 10 November 2025; 2 February, 15 April, 22 June, 24 August, 11 November 2026

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-imburement to participants in that activity.

Please make your cheques payable to: “BRENTWOOD RAMBLERS EVENTS” and not to RA Brentwood Group/BR Events/Brentwood RA etc etc!

Return booking forms to: Chris Green, 15 Appletree Crescent, Doddinghurst CM15 0QS

Newcastle 30 May - 6 June 2026 (7 nights) Deposit of £50 to be paid now Cheques payable to Brentwood Ramblers Events to be sent to Chris Green			
Room	Price per person	No of Places	Total (£50 per person)
Sharing City Double per person	£590		£
Couple sharing City Twin per person	£590		£
Singles sharing City Twin per person	£590		£
Single room	£795		£
Single occupancy Standard Double	£865		£
<i>Name:</i>		<i>Tel:</i>	
<i>Email:</i>		<i>Mob:</i>	

Bentley Golf Club

Brentwood Ramblers Christmas Lunch 2025

Cream of Tomato Soup (v)

Prawn Cocktail

Melon with Parma Ham or Winter Berries (v)

Roast Turkey with all the Trimmings

Honey Roast Gammon

Herb Crust Salmon

Nut Roast (v)

Christmas Pudding

Yule Chocolate Log with Mint or Vanilla Ice Cream

Fresh Fruit Salad (v)

Coffee & Mince Pies

Tear here -----

Please send cheque and completed form by 31 October to: Ruth Hannon, 27 Abenberg Way, Brentwood, CM13 2UG					
Name					
Phone no					
Email					
<i>Please tick choice for each course:</i>					
Tomato soup	☐	Turkey	☐	Christmas pudding	☐
Prawn cocktail	☐	Gammon	☐	Choc Log + Mint	☐
Melon + Parma ham	☐	Salmon	☐	Choc Log + Vanilla	☐
Melon + winter berries	☐	Nut roast	☐	Fresh fruit salad	☐

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<i>Please tick choice for each course:</i>					
Tomato soup		Turkey		Christmas pudding	
Prawn cocktail		Gammon		Choc Log + Mint	
Melon + Parma ham		Salmon		Choc Log + Vanilla	
Melon + winter berries		Nut roast		Fresh fruit salad	