



RAMBLERS

Brentwood

Newsletter

April - July 2023

Chair's Notes



Hi everyone, it's good to be back in the Chair again after 7 years' rest, and a pleasure to be elected. I hope I will be able to bring some new ideas to the group although I'm perhaps not as able IT-wise as I used to be. My thanks go to Geoff who, I'm sure you'll all agree, has led the group through the most difficult time since the founding of the group in 1968.

Thank you also very much to Les Cox who, for more years than most of us can remember, has been a stalwart on the Committee and as a leader for the Group. At the AGM his retirement from Committee was announced, although he continues to lead many walks. His knowledge of footpaths and pubs is unsurpassed. Thank you, Geoff and Les, from all of us.

The group appear to have recovered well from the Covid effect, because walk attendance numbers are slowly increasing and we had a good turnout of members at the AGM. I think people are used to getting out and about more although the places we walk from tend to still be more local than they used to be, but it'll change I'm sure.

The annual week away, coach trips and weekends away last year were brilliant and that shows how the group started getting back on track for this year. Thanks to all who organised and led the walks on these.

Unfortunately, several well-liked and respected members of our group passed away this winter and I know we will always remember them when walking on routes we know they enjoyed.

We have coach rambles and holidays arranged. I've already booked some and I'm really looking forward to going.

As a member of the path clearing team, always arranged by Miles, I know the need for the work to be done. It's a great feeling building bridges, cutting hedges, sawing branches and digging holes. Good exercise, too, and a good laugh. Then, when you've finished, the path is open and clear again for us all to use. New recruits always welcome.

So enjoy the spring weather and the company of us all as you walk.

Brian Scroggs

News and Views

Photos from Geoff Sharman, on Les Cox's walk 18 January



Au Revoir but not Goodbye !



***Photo: Brentwood Gazette, 18 August 2004
Dianne, Marion, Linda, Les and Roy (Carpenter)***

For the last couple of decades Les Cox has been a Committee member for our group, working tirelessly in the background, keeping us all on our toes! He has been instrumental in organising numerous walks and holidays for us all.

His knowledge of the footpath network is extensive and he has assisted many a lost leader over the years - not to mention his encyclopaedic memory of football matches and CAMRA pubs, and, if ever we need to know who was on which walk in 1999, Les will know. Doubtless he has also, single-handedly prevented many an Essex hostelry from going into bankruptcy!

All in all, Les has done more than his bit for the Brentwood Ramblers over many years, for which we thank him. Don't hang your boots up just yet though, Les, we need to know which path to take!

Dianne Ingram

Bookable and Forthcoming Events

Sunday 2 April Coach Ramble from Cadmore End to Henley on Thames

Walk details for Sunday 16 April

Start Point: Woolwich at Wetherspoons pub called “The Great Harry” at Wellington Street, Woolwich. From Woolwich Arsenal DLR Station exit left from station, cross road to General Gordon Square (large square that’s mainly grassed over with big water features). Cross the Square diagonally to the pub.

Miles: 12 (morning - 7 miles; afternoon - 5 miles)

Lunch: Bring sandwiches etc; real ale bar or café available.

Initially a short **bus ride** towards Erith. We will see a castle, abbey, lots of woods, an interesting cemetery entrance and many good views, which means hills to climb. I will avoid road walking and the Capital Ring. Good bus service from near lunch stop to Woolwich Arsenal DLR Station, for half-day walkers.

Colin Raven

The Pymmes Brook Trail Sunday 23 April

The Pymmes Brook Trail follows a surprisingly green route through north-east London for 13 miles from Barnet, through Palmers Green and Edmonton, to finish at Tottenham Hale. It links woodland, parks and open spaces, keeping close to the brook for much of the journey.

Starting from Hadley Green, one of the highest parts of Greater London, at an altitude of 440 ft, the Trail traverses a chain of woods, parks, open spaces and scrubland linked by pleasant, mainly residential roads, with much of interest to see along the way. The Brook flows into the River Lea at Tottenham which is just 36 ft above sea level so the Trail descends steadily but imperceptibly, except at the start!

We will meet at High Barnet station (Northern Line) and finish at Tottenham Hale station (Victoria Line and Greater Anglia/Overground to Stratford and Liverpool Street). There are various opt out points en route. A picnic is the suggested lunch option.

Chris Green

Bradford and Yorkshire Dales May 2023

Thirty-one Brentwood Ramblers are bound for West Yorkshire for a week of walking based in Bradford. Our walk on the Bank Holiday Monday includes a steam train ride on the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway, well known as the location for the “Railway Children” film in 1970 and home to the “Flying Scotsman” for the month of May during a nationwide centenary tour.

Sunday’s walk takes us from Bingley past the Five Rise Locks on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, one of the 7 wonders of the canal network, and across Ilkley Moor with a shorter option into Saltaire, the model industrial village founded by Sir Titus Salt, a Unesco World Heritage Site and home to the David Hockney Collection in a converted woollen mill.

Our other walks take us into villages (and pubs!) in the Yorkshire Dales and may include a visit to York to walk in the City and along the walls. A full itinerary will be available nearer the time.

Chris Green

Saffron Trail Walk Wednesday 31 May – Friday 2 June

In conjunction with Chelmer & Blackwater Ramblers

“Nelson Mandela Way” Walk 16 and 30 July

A long-distance walk from the Royal Festival Hall in London to Wendover in Buckinghamshire, which should take 8 days to complete. Unfortunately, the walk is not shown on Ordnance Survey Maps. You may recall that the first section of the Walk was completed on 2 February 2020 and the second will be completed on 19 March 2023.

The third section of the Walk takes place on Sunday 16 July 2023. It continues northwest, mainly through open countryside to Radlett Train Station. Breakfast is available at Oak Café or Popular Café, which are almost next to each other. At the station, exit left and walk approximately 300m to the cafes. Lunch at the “Mops & Brooms”, a busy pub that only does cooked food on Sundays, so strongly suggest you bring your own food. Optional dinner: restaurant in central London.

The fourth section of the Walk takes place on Sunday 30 July 2023. It continues southwest crossing the M1 and finishes at Hatch End Train Station, a Thameslink line where you can use your Oyster. Breakfast at Café Radlett which is very near the station in Watling St. Lunch at Stanmore Common, bring your own food, followed by a drink approximately 30 minutes later at a pub called “The Case is Altered”.

Colin Raven

Eastbourne, Sussex October 2023 (3 nights)

Blind Walkers Group Ramble - 17 September

Christmas Lunch – Tuesday 5 December

AGM - 7 December

Past Events

Photo by Stefan Sheriden, on Brian Scrogg’s walk 15 December, before Christmas lunch



This was our first Group Christmas lunch since December 2019 due to the interruption by the pandemic. Sixty people were able to attend the meal held at the Bentley Golf Club. An enthusiastic crowd of hardy souls braved the snow and frost to go on the pre-lunch walk kindly led by Brian Scroggs. The comment on their return was that “the snow was deep and crisp and even” which made it a magical walk.

As usual the choice and quality of the Christmas fayre was excellent and enjoyed by all. It was lovely to chat with new members, catch up with people who do not regularly walk and generally socialise.

Thanks go to Ruth Hannon and Chris Green for organising the event. This year the Christmas Lunch will be on Tuesday 5 December at the Bentley Golf Club so put the date in your diary. Booking form to follow later in the year.

Jane Green

Footpath Secretary

Essex County Council Diversion Orders

Footpath 57 Chase Farm Little Burstead – Essex Highways has raised orders to divert FP57, which runs from the church, to join a new path which connects to FP52, thereby enabling easier access to nearby paths. Footpath 53 is redundant and will be extinguished. Essex Highways digital map has yet to be updated to reflect these changes.

Kelvedon Hatch Bridleway 275-1 - Following the installation of a high metal mesh fence, which limits access to the bridleway, Kelvedon Parish Council representatives are meeting the land owner later this month to discuss the matter.

Parish Path Adopter Programme

Winter has been a relatively quiet period for surveying paths in the Brentwood District. Once spring gets underway growing vegetation can quickly restrict access to the Public Right of Way Network. It is therefore important we soon recommence our footpath surveys. In the meantime, please report any problems found to Essex Highways via their online system.

Gordon Bird

Footpath Working Party - The Brentwood Bramblers

The footpath maintenance team have been out working many weeks since the last Newsletter. We had our 3 petrol machines annually serviced during December so hopefully we will have another year of trouble-free use of them. On 13 February the West Horndon 119 (TQ604886) footpath was totally overgrown near the eastern end of the path. It has been cleared by Brian Scroggs, Richard Farr, Joan Chandler, Don Clark and Roy Quince and what a lovely sunny day they had in doing the clearing and were satisfied with their efforts. There is now no excuse for fellow ramblers not to start using this footpath once again.

Anyone who would like to give a hand for a few hours on Monday mornings, even occasionally, with the maintenance of the footpaths, please contact me.

Miles Cooper

Webmaster's Notes

There were quite a number of changes made to our previous issue of our Walks Programme and it would have been quite a task to keep re-issuing this document. We do, however, keep "Our Next Walks" and "Latest Notifications" up to date on the Website to supplement the Mailchimps which you receive. So, I suggest that you keep checking the Website when planning your walks.

Use the following Links to access the information: - [Our Next Walks](#) and [Latest Notifications](#).

You can Bookmark these URL's (Website Addresses) on your Devices or, like me, add them to the Home Screen on your Phone.

Steve Johnson

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>

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.*