



Newsletter

April – July 2026

Chair's Notes

Since this is the first time I have had the opportunity to reach out to you all as the new Chair of Brentwood Ramblers, let me first take the time to thank my predecessor Brian Scroggs for all the hard work he has put in over the last 3 years as Chair, and as a Committee member for a good many years. He will be a hard act to follow.

I am writing this on a gloomy, wet day - we have had so many of those this winter (and gone out walking regardless) but now we can look forward to putting our gloves, woolly hats, hand warmers and scarves away and pulling on shorts and tee shirts. Yes! Soon spring will blossom and with it comes the promise of summer. We look forward to enjoying walks together on those bright, sunny days!

Of course, those walks would not be possible if were not for all the efforts of our Walk Secretaries and Walk Leaders so I thank them, on your behalf, for putting together the walks programme and volunteering to lead our walks. Well done as well to those who have recently qualified as walk leaders. Lead and we shall follow! Thanks, in particular, to Sheila Wasmuth for taking over the role of Saturday Walk Secretary from Dianne Ingram who did that job so well for more years than most of us can remember.

We are still looking for a Walks Coordinator for the Wednesday walks as Frankie has had to retire from that role. If you feel that this is something you might be able to take on, please contact either me or Geoff Sharman. It is not particularly difficult, it just needs you to spare a little of your time. Any necessary training will be given.

At the time of writing we still have some places available for our holiday in Scarborough; further details are in this Newsletter.

Steve Jessup

Footpath Working Party - The Brentwood Bramblers

It's been the usual winter quiet spell since the last Newsletter in November but we have managed to:

Fit 3 waymarker posts; clear 4 footpaths; service 4 waymarker posts; clear 5 fallen trees .

The before and after pictures show a man in a new hat, on all fours struggling to get under a fallen tree, so we cleared it for him.



Don Clark

Past Events

Christmas Lunch - Friday 5 December 2025

The Brentwood Ramblers' Christmas Lunch was at Bentley Golf Club, Kelvedon Hatch. Sixty-two people attended. It was good to see so many members who are no longer able to walk with us, as well as regular walkers, and we did all look very smart for a change, rather than covered in Essex mud!

Chris Green/Ruth Hannon

Pre-Christmas festive walk and social at Essex Wildlife Trust (EWT) - Hanningfield Reservoir

On Tuesday 16 December 38 of our members enjoyed the annual pre-Christmas get together at the EWT-Hanningfield Reservoir.

In the morning, Brian led a group of members on a walk around the nature reserve. The afternoon get-together was a lovely social event; it was particularly nice to have an opportunity to catch up with members who no longer walk with the group or only walk occasionally. This year there were so many of us that we had to put out extra chairs!

A big thank you as always to Alan for organising another really enjoyable afternoon and to both him and Heidi who arrived early to ensure everything was set up for when everyone else arrived, and of course to Brian for leading the morning walk.

Looking forward to the 2026 event.

Paula Howard

Mike's walk Tuesday 27 January, from Blackmore



And just look where Mike led us, on an extremely wet (even by recent standards) rainy day when we all voted not to walk. We met up with Jane M and Brian who didn't even make it to the start point! *Photo: Brian Scroggs*

Ruth Hannon

Forthcoming Events

Train Ramble to Kent coast

This is a repeat of a walk I did 10 years ago(!!) on 3 April 2016 (see photo below). It turned out to be the first hot day of the year with people swimming in the sea!

It is a linear walk of about 10 miles from Ramsgate to Margate along seaside promenades and cliff tops, through parks and gardens, past magnificent houses, sandy bays, follies and a castle. Lunch will be at Broadstairs. It promises to be a really magical day out by the end of which you may find yourself in Dreamland.



Chris Green

Brentwood Ramblers Holiday to Newcastle

Following our successful holiday in Bradford in 2023, we are proposing a similar trip to the sister hotel in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne.

Geoff Sharman

Coach ramble to Aldeburgh

We have a coach ramble to the Suffolk coast arranged for August. There will be a short walk of about 6.5 miles led by Steve and a longer walk of about 10 miles led by Lorraine.

Both walks start from Snape Maltings and follow the Sailors' Path towards Aldeburgh, an ancient route used by sailors returning to Aldeburgh after unloading cargo at Snape Maltings and finding the tide too low to sail back.

Chris Green

Visit to Old Amersham

I'm planning to lead a Sunday walk to Old Amersham for half- and full-day walkers in September. This is intended to be like a coach trip but to use a train instead. Amersham is at the northern end of the Metropolitan tube line, within the Freedom Pass and Oyster Zones. There is a lot to see in Old Amersham and the surrounding countryside is very scenic. 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. I will start the walk a bit later than the normal 10.00 am. Further details will be published in the August to November Newsletter.

Colin Raven

Brentwood Ramblers Holiday to Scarborough

Christmas Lunch at Bentley Golf Club

Details in next Newsletter.

Chris Green

Footpath Secretary

Essex has over 6000 km of Public Rights of Way (PRoW); Brentwood District (including the 9 parishes) account for 243km - 409 paths/bridleways. Essex Highways is responsible for the upkeep of the PRoW network and report defects on their Track It website. At present 99 defects are registered in Brentwood District – an average of about one defect per 2.5 km. There is not a clear definition of a defect (problem), however it is recognised it can include anything from a missing way marker, to side growth, to a dangerous rotting stile. Our (Ramblers) initial concern is focused on addressing any defect that might be dangerous to the walking public. To assist in this exercise our recently developed App, PPA25 (Parish Path Adopter 2025), has been used to extract all stile and bridge defects reported on Essex Highways Track It website – I hope you are still with me. This identified 21 defects, 11 associated with stiles and 10 with bridges. Each one will be checked over the coming weeks and where appropriate referred back to Essex Highways for resolution.

Other defects will be addressed over the coming months – anyone who would like to assist please contact me. Any help would be appreciated.

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>