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PUBLICITY	Geoff Farrow, 01787 472061, Email geoff.farrow@lineone.net
COMMITTEE	Clive Collins, Ronnie Davis, Graham Lewsey, Francis Starnes
FOOTPATH SECRETARY	Paul Evans, 01376 570156, Email paul@peke.com Katherine Evans, 01376 570156, Email katherine@peke.com

PLEASE NOTE: On walks DO NOT consume your own drinks in pubs or pub gardens. Times given are for the start of the walk. Please allow time for parking and putting on boots etc. A maximum of two dogs are generally allowed on walks. Please contact the leader beforehand. Dogs must be on leads along roads or near livestock and under close control at all other times. All walks are at Rambler's own risk. Neither the R.A. nor the leader can accept any responsibility for any accident or injuries which may occur during any of the group's walks or other activities.

You are receiving this communication as a member of North-West Essex Ramblers and you have previously asked to be kept informed of the Ramblers work by email/post. If you no longer wish to receive communications like this, please update your mailing preferences at <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/my-account>

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

Welcome to our new programme of walks which takes us through the winter and into the spring, and contains our usual variety of walks. Remember if you are a member of the Ramblers you are able to join any Ramblers walk at any time and each week there are several hundred organised walks led by Ramblers volunteers. You can check which walks are available on the main Ramblers website though of course we hope you will join your local group for some walks.

In September a small group of us enjoyed walking the Yorkshire Wolds Way and as seems to be usual on our group holidays we had excellent weather and only encountered rain on the journey home. This long-distance trail runs through a quiet and unspoilt part of the country and, whilst most of the route is gently undulating, we unexpectedly encountered two short but very steep hills and it is the first time I have ever seen a warning sign "Beware steep incline!" on a public footpath.

At the end of October our group took part in the Festival of Walks organised by Essex Ramblers which was based on the theme of "water" and we ran walks from Heybridge Basin and Hatfield Peverel. There is a slideshow of the festival walks on Essex Area website where there is also the latest area news and general information on footpaths and fault reporting. Please see the area website address on the front page of this programme.

On 9 November we held our AGM at the Maurice Rowson Hall in Gosfield where 18 group members were present. At the AGM we reviewed the group's activities over the past year when we organised over 80 walks and we also elected our committee for the forthcoming year. Our joint footpath secretaries Katherine and Paul Evans advised that they would be stepping down in February and we thank them for all the hard work they have put in over the past decade checking the condition of footpaths, reporting faults, and liaising with local authorities over planning issues, footpath diversions and closures. They also acted as witnesses for the Ramblers at the recent public inquiry into the proposed crossing closures by Network Rail. If anyone is interested in the position of footpath secretary or group secretary please contact a member of the committee.

Finally, a brief reminder that our Christmas lunch takes place at the Five Bells in Colne Engaine on 14 December so please contact Ronnie as soon as possible if you intend to come to this event.

Happy rambling!

Geoff

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SATURDAY, 14 DECEMBER – Christmas Lunch will again be held at the Five Bells, Colne Engaine, 7 Mill Lane, CO6 2HY 1pm for 1.30pm. (2 courses £19.50, and 3 courses £24.00)

TUESDAY, 28 JANUARY – John Ray footpath clearance. Meet Cressing Barns car park. All very welcome. Many hands make light work. Please bring refreshments but opportunity to visit tea room after. See programme for more information.

TUESDAY, 4 FEBRUARY – Committee/Planning Meeting see programme for full details.

SATURDAY, 8 FEBRUARY – Essex Area AGM will take place at Essex Cricket Ground with guest speaker from Ramblers Board of Trustees. For more information check out Essex Area website.

Keep **SATURDAY, 18 APRIL 2020** free as Ronnie is organising a short walk followed by fish and chips on Mersea Island.

DATE/LEADER	DECEMBER WALKS	MAP REF/ POST CODE
Sun 8 th 12.30 pm Gwen & Ann 01245 382399 07976 709056	PARK AT ULTING CHURCH Short walk before carol service at 4.00 pm. From Maldon Road, Hatfield Peverel (B1019) take Ulting Road, ignoring closed road signs as church is before Hoe Mill Bridge. Car share advisable as restricted parking and places. Names to Gwen by 30 November. Please bring a torch and refreshments. A small donation for church please. 5-6 miles	EXP 183 TL 801088 CM9 6QU
Sat 14 th 1.00 pm for 1.30 pm Ronnie 01787 479177 07974 635627	CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT FIVE BELLS, COLNE ENGAINE See Dates for Your Diary for more information.	EXP 195 TL 852303 CO6 2HY
Sat 21 st 9.00 am for 9.24 am bus LINEAR WALK Teresa 07505 063108	GREAT DUNMOW TO RAYNE STATION Park at Rayne station and walk to top of Station Road to catch 133 bus at 9.24 am to Great Dunmow. This walk starts at 10.00 am from Dunmow High Street near the war memorial to walk back along the Flitch Way. Refreshments available at Rayne station at end of walk. Picnic lunch Approx 7.5 miles	EXP 195 TL 726224 CM77 6AB

**WISHING EVERYONE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR WITH LOTS OF HAPPY WALKING IN 2020**

DATE/LEADER	JANUARY WALKS	MAP REF/ POST CODE
Sun 5 th 10.00 am Ronnie 01787 479177 07974 635627	MUCH HADHAM Park alongside church. Picnic lunch 10 miles	EXP 194 TL 430196 SG10 6DH
Tue 7 th 10.00 am Gwen 01245 382399 07976 709056	HARTEST, SUFFOLK Park at village hall. Walking via Boxted. Easy pace. Bring refreshments if required. Approx 5 miles	EXP 211 TL 833525 IP29 4DH
Sat 11 th 10.00 am Ann B 01371 856659 07756 559179	FORDHAM VILLAGE OPEN ACCESS Free car park at entrance to Woodland Trust's Fordham Estate (off Ponders Road). Picnic lunch Approx 8 miles	EXP 184 TL 928286 CO6 3LX
Sun 12 th 10.00 am Janet & Clive 01787 373173 07484 377254	SIBLE HEDINGHAM Park in public car park behind the Co-op on Swan Street. Picnic lunch Approx 10 miles	EXP 195 TL 784342 CO9 3HP
Sat 18 th 10.00 am Marion & Graham 01376 339712 07908 185389	COGGESHALL Park in public car park, Stoneham Street. Picnic lunch 8.5 miles	EXP 195 TL 849227 CO6 1UH
Tue 21 st 10.00 am Ann B 01371 856659 07756 559179	GOSFIELD Park by lake. Easy pace. Bring refreshments if required. 6-7 miles	EXP 195 TL 781296 CO9 1UG
Sat 25 th 10.00 am Teresa 07505 063108	RAYNE Park at station. Walking off Flitch Way via Felstead and Gransmore Green. Refreshments available at Rayne station at end of walk. Picnic lunch Approx 8 miles	EXP 195 TL 726224 CM77 6AB
Tue 28 th 10.00 am to 1.00 pm Geoff 01787 472 061 07885 486837	CRESSING TEMPLE BARNES Group path maintenance for John Ray Path. Park in car park at end away from tea shop. Bring gloves, secateurs, loppers and shears.	EXP 183 TL 800187 CM8 3XP

FOOTNOTES

Many thanks to all our leaders for putting on a great variety of walks this year and also special thanks to everyone who has organised social events for us this year.

Total number of walks this year: Essex 69, Suffolk 12, Hertfordshire 3, London 1, totalling 86. This is five more than last year which was seven more than the year before.

Please note that all walks are circular unless otherwise stated.

SEVERE WEATHER - A reminder, if we should experience bad weather, please check with leader to confirm walk is still taking place to save a wasted journey.

DATE/LEADER	FEBRUARY WALKS	MAP REF/ POST CODE
Sun 2 nd 10.00 am Ann S 01787 374454 07467 185478	STOKE-BY-NAYLAND Park at recreation ground. Circular walk via Boxford. Picnic lunch Approx 10 miles	EXP 196 TL 985362 CO6 4QY
Tue 4 th 11.00 am	COMMITTEE/PLANNING MEETING at Gosfield Village Hall (Maurice Rowson Hall) in Bill Pasfield Room. Everyone welcome.	EXP 195 TL 782296 CO9 1UB
Sat 8 th 10.00 am Teresa 07505 063108	GOSFIELD Park by lake. Walking via Beazley End. Picnic lunch Approx 9.5 miles	EXP 195 TL 781296 CO9 1UG
Tue 11 th 10.00 am Ann B 01371 856659 07756 559179	BLACKMORE END Park at village hall. Easy pace. Bring refreshments if required. 6-7 miles	EXP 195 TL 742307 CM7 4DN
Sat 15 th 10.00 am Maria 01376 331510 07950 379083	BRAINTREE Park at bus station. Circular walk via Bocking, Rayne and Panfield. Picnic lunch 10 miles	EXP 195 TL 759229 CM7 3HA
Sat 22 nd 10.00 am Marion & Graham 01376 339712 07908 185389	RIVENHALL Park in Albert Moss playing field car park. Snack/lunch as required. 6.5 miles	EXP 183 TL 829175 CM8 3PQ
Sun 23 rd 10.00 am Janet & Clive 01787 373173 07484 377254	LONG MELFORD Park in car park by old school opposite entrance to Melford Hall. Picnic lunch Approx 9 miles	EXP 196 TL 866464 CO10 9DX
Sat 29 th 8.39 am LINEAR WALK Teresa 07505 063108	THE CENTENARY CIRCLE – SECTION 1 GALLEYWOOD TO SPRINGFIELD VIA SANDON Catch the No 70 bus at 8.39 am from Braintree bus station to Chelmsford bus station. Change to No 100 bus at 9.40 am to Galleywood Common. (One may wish to park on the common and catch 100 bus at end of walk to return to one's car.) The walk starts at 10.00 am at the access road to Glebe Farm. This section will conclude at Sainsbury's, Springfield where a 71 bus can be caught back to the city centre. A shorter walk of 4.5 miles is possible by catching a bus from Sandon to the city centre. Picnic lunch Approx 8 miles	EXP 183 TL 704021 CM2 8JU

DATE/LEADER	MARCH WALKS	MAP REF/ POST CODE
Sat 7 th 8.39 am LINEAR WALK Teresa 07505 063108	THE CENTENARY CIRCLE – SECTION 2 SPRINGFIELD TO WRITTLE VIA BROOMFIELD Catch the 70 bus at 8.39 am from Braintree bus station to Chelmsford bus station. Take the 71 bus at 9.23 am to Sainsbury's, Springfield to start walk at 10.00 am. (Alternatively, park at free car park in Writtle and catch 45 bus to Chelmsford bus station to connect with 71 bus to Springfield.) Catch a 45 bus to city centre at the end of the walk. A shorter walk of 3.75 miles is possible by catching a bus from Broomfield to either Chelmsford or Braintree bus station. Picnic lunch Approx 8.5 miles	EXP 183 TL 736089 CM2 5PA
Sat 14 th 10.00 am Marion & Graham 01376 339712 07908 185389	COGGESHALL Park in public car park, Stoneham Street. Picnic lunch 10 miles	EXP 195 TL 849227 CO61UH
Sat 21 st 8.39 am LINEAR WALK Teresa 07505 063108	THE CENTENARY CIRCLE – SECTION 3 WRITTLE TO GALLEYWOOD Catch the 70 bus at 8.39 am from Braintree bus station to Chelmsford bus station. Take the 45 bus at 9.35 am to Writtle to start the walk at 10.00 am at the junction of Bridge Street with St John's Green and Lodge Road. (Alternatively, park at the free car park in Writtle and catch 45 bus at the end of the walk to return to one's car.) The concluding section is 4.75 miles. A 100 bus can be caught from Galleywood Common to Chelmsford bus station. This service is every 20 minutes. However, I am intending to walk back to Chelmsford. This would extend the total walk to approx. 8.25 miles. Picnic lunch 4.75 or 8.25 miles	EXP 183 TL 679063 CM1 3EP
Sun 22 nd 10.00 am Ronnie 01787 479177 07974 635627	SALCOTT-CUM-VIRLEY Meet at church. Walking Blackwater marshland. Picnic lunch 8 miles	EXP 184 TL 952136 CM9 8HW
Sat 29 th 10.00 am Maria 01376 33150 07950 379083	CHALKNEY WOOD - PRIMROSE WALK Park in layby in Tey Road. Picnic lunch 8 miles	EXP 195 TL 872273 CO6 2LD
Sun 29 th 10.00 am Geoff 01787 472061 07885 486837	HALSTEAD AREA WALK Park at Butler Road car park (free on Sundays). Picnic lunch 10 miles	EXP 195 TL 810305 CO9 1JA
Tue 31 st 10.00 am Gwen 01245 382399 07976 709056	UGLEY Park at Linnetts Wood off B1383. Easy pace. Bring refreshments if required 6.5 miles	EXP 195 TL 516273 CM22 6HR