

**WINTER/SPRING PROGRAMME  
DECEMBER 2021- MARCH 2022**

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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 next spring. At the time of writing, group walks have resumed, but the situation may change at very short notice so please check our website or Facebook page before turning up on a walk or alternatively you may wish to contact the walk leader.

The proceedings at COP26 have taken over the news headlines recently and as part of the "green agenda" it seems that central and local government are finally taking active measures to develop the national and local walking infrastructure. Essex County Council have now published their own walking strategy consultation report which may be found on their website. There is also a feasibility study underway regarding the proposal to make Wainwright's iconic coast to coast walk into an accessible national trail which, if successful, would attract more funding for this popular route. We still await the results of the public inquiry into the proposed closure of non-vehicular rail crossings in Essex despite the fact that this inquiry concluded in spring 2019, whilst our colleagues in Scotland are fighting the sudden and unjustified closure of the rail crossing at Dalwhinnie.

On 6 November some 18 members attended our AGM at the Maurice Rowson Hall in Gosfield where, amongst other matters, we discussed the future of your group. As a background to this discussion our total group membership has remained fairly stable over the last 10 years at around 100, but the number of members attending group walks has steadily declined over this period, partly due to the average age of existing members increasing and not being offset by the recruitment of new younger members. The disruption caused by the pandemic has also adversely affected attendance figures with the numbers on longer weekend walks now becoming problematic. Even with a total membership of around 100 it is not viable to sustain your group unless there is sufficient interest in group activities, which include participating in group walks, working parties and social events. There are also difficulties in replacing existing members on the committee, some of whom have served for over 10 years and who now wish to stand down. Consequently, we will be carefully monitoring walk numbers over the next two programmes before making a final decision on the future of your group. Please therefore support your group by joining group walks and other activities where possible if you want it to continue. Your attention is also drawn to our post-Christmas lunch on Saturday 15 January, further details of which are shown elsewhere and I do hope that you will be able to attend.

Remember you can keep in touch by joining our 300+ Facebook followers and posting on our Facebook page.

Happy rambling and stay safe!  
Geoff

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **SATURDAY, 15 JANUARY – POST CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

12.30 pm for 1.00 pm at The Swan Inn, The Street, Chappel. Two courses £22.50, 3 courses £27.95. Names to Ronnie 01787 49177. A deposit of £10 required with menu choices, as soon as possible. See menu on page 3.

### **TUESDAY, 1 FEBRUARY – PLANNING/COMMITTEE MEETING**

See programme for full details

### **SATURDAY, 10 FEBRUARY – ESSEX AREA AGM**

10.00 am for 10.30am at The Cloudin County Ground, New Writtle Street, CM2 0PG.

### **TUESDAY, 29 MARCH – PATH CLEARANCE**

Location to be notified. See programme for times.

DATE/LEADER	DECEMBER WALKS	MAP REF/ POST CODE
Tue 7 <sup>th</sup> 10.00 am Ronnie 01787 479177 07974 635627	<b>GREENSTEAD GREEN</b> Park at recreation ground. Easy Pace. Picnic lunch  Approx 7 miles	EXP 195 TL 822278 CO9 1QZ
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> 10.00 am or 1.30 pm Teresa 07505 063108	<b>RAYNE</b> – Figure of 8 (different from previous one). Park at Rayne Station. Morning walk to Panfield (approx 6 miles) Afternoon walk starting 1.30 pm (approx 3 miles) around Great Notley Country park. Picnic lunch at Rayne Station with option to purchase refreshments. Approx 9 miles	EXP 195 TL 726224 CM77 6AB

### THE SWAN INN FESTIVE MENU

#### STARTER

Deep fried Brie with cranberry sauce & dressed mixed leaves (v)  
Tandoori spiced chicken skewers served with mint raita, sag aloo & poppadom  
Winter vegetable soup with root vegetable crisps, bread & butter (v)  
Prawn & crayfish cocktail tossed in Marie Rose sauce with granary bread  
Duck liver parfait, homemade pear & cranberry chutney served with sourdough toast  
Portobello mushroom stuffed with mozzarella, red onion marmalade, spinach & pine nuts topped with a herb crumb served with dressed rocket (vg)

#### MAIN

Roast turkey with pork, sage & apricot stuffing, maple cured bacon wrapped chipolata, roast potatoes & turkey gravy  
Cranberry & nut roast, roast potatoes, vegan gravy (vg)  
Pork belly, whole grain mustard mash, cider jus, crackling & apple sauce  
Salmon fillet served with crayfish cream sauce & crushed new potatoes topped with crispy leeks  
Rump steak, peppercorn sauce, chips, grilled tomato & field mushroom  
(Served medium £2 Supplement)  
Festive Risotto: butternut squash & chestnut risotto with crispy sprout tops & cranberries (v)  
Pan fried guinea fowl with sauteed pancetta & leek, cranberry compote, bubble & squeak & game jus  
All meals served with seasonal vegetables

#### DESSERT

Traditional plum pudding & brandy sauce  
Warm cherry & almond cake with ice cream (vg)  
Chocolate & salted caramel brownie served with chocolate sauce & vanilla ice cream  
Baileys creme brulée with homemade shortbread biscuit  
Winter Berry Eton Mess: Whipped sweetened cream with meringue pieces, winter berries & vanilla ice cream  
Trio of sorbet with fruit garnish & cafe curl  
Cheddar, Brie & Stilton with mulled chutney, biscuits, grapes & celery £1 supplement)

2 COURSES £22.50    3 COURSES £27.95

DATE/LEADER	JANUARY WALKS	MAP REF/ POST CODE
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> 10.00 am Jo 01787 829352 07778 016761	<b>COLCHESTER</b> Park in Chanterelle car park, Highwoods, near Tesco (4 <sup>th</sup> turning left off Eastwood Drive) Picnic lunch <span style="float:right">Approx 10 miles</span>	EXP 184 TM 009269 CO4 9RY
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> 10.00 am Fran 01787 477232 07527 552484	<b>TERLING</b> Park opposite village hall. Walking via Fuller Street. May be opportunity for refreshments at end of walk. Easy pace. Bring snack if required. <span style="float:right">Approx 5 miles</span>	EXP 183 TL 772151 CM3 2PN
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> 10.00 am Janet & Clive 01787 373173 07484 377254	<b>CASTLE HEDINGHAM</b> Parking at Memorial Hall. Walking via Gestingthorpe and Great Maplestead. Picnic lunch <span style="float:right">Approx 10 miles</span>	EXP 195 TL 784356 CO9 3DA
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> 12.30 for 1.00 pm	<b>POST CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT THE SWAN INN, THE STREET, CHAPPEL</b> See dates for your diary and menu on page 3 for further information.	EXP 195 TL 896284 CO6 2DD
Tue 25 <sup>th</sup> 10.00 am Geoff 01787 472061 07885 486837	<b>LONG MELFORD, SUFFOLK</b> – Linear walk Park in the Old School car park opposite Melford Hall. Amble along the Melford Walk & Valley Trail to Sudbury. Bus back. Bring snack as required. Easy pace. 5 miles	EXP 196 TL 865462 CO10 9DT
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> 9.30 am Teresa 07505 063108	<b>RAYNE</b> Park at Station. Walking to Felsted, Cock Green & Bannister Green. For shorter walks (approx 4.5 & 7.5 miles) by catching bus No 133 from Felsted to Rayne. Refreshments available at end of walk. <span style="float:right">Approx 12 miles</span>	EXP 195/183 TL 726224 CM77 6AB

### FOOTNOTES

Please note all walks are circular unless otherwise stated.

**SEVERE WEATHER** - A reminder, no walk can be guaranteed in bad weather. If in doubt, please check with the leader to confirm the walk is taking place to save a wasted journey.

**CORONAVIRUS** – The latest Ramblers advice for members. Restrictions have eased considerably, but Covid is still out there. Please continue to be careful of close contact with people and stay home if you have any symptoms. Be aware that this information may change as we go into winter.

**LEADERS** – It is probably still advisable to take names and contact details for everyone on your walks.

DATE/LEADER	FEBRUARY WALKS	MAP REF/ POST CODE
Tue 1 <sup>st</sup> 11.00 am	<b>PLANNING/COMMITTEE MEETING</b> At Gosfield Village Hall (Maurice Rowson Hall) in Bill Pasfield Room. Everyone welcome.	EXP 195 TL 782296 CO9 1UB
Tue 8 <sup>th</sup> 10.00 am Ronnie 01787 479177 07974 635627	<b>TOLLESBURY</b> Park at Woodrolfe Road car park. Picnic lunch. Easy pace.  7 miles	EXP 176 TL 965108 CM9 8RY
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> 10.00 am Teresa 07505 063108	<b>BOCKING</b> Park at church. Walking to Church End, Shalford via Beasley End. Hopefully snowdrops will be in bloom. Picnic lunch Approx 8.5 miles	EXP 195 TL 757257 CM7 5JY
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> 10.00 am Janet P 01787 227929 07722 512844	<b>SUDBURY, SUFFOLK</b> Parking in free car park at end of Quay Lane. Walking via Little Cornard. Picnic lunch Approx 10 miles	EXP 196 TL 871409 CO10 2AN
Tue 22 <sup>nd</sup> 10.00 am Gwen 01245 382399 07976 709056	<b>WICKHAM BISHOPS</b> Park in Village Hall car park, Church Road. Bring snack if required. Easy pace,  5-6 miles	EXP 183 TL 844124 CM8 3NL

### Lost Ways / Don't Lose Your Way (DLYW) & the 2026 cut-off date

1 January 2026 is now only about 4 years away. This may seem a long time but the process of claiming paths is long-winded so there is much to do in the 4 years.

2026 is the cut-off date for claiming paths - that are **not** currently public rights of way (PROWs) - based on evidence from historical documents - things like Tithe Maps, Estate Records and early Ordnance Survey maps. After 2026 the only way a path can be claimed as a public right of way is if people have walked it "without let or hindrance and not in secret" for 20 years, or if a landowner(s) voluntarily creates a public right of way across their land.

The Ramblers DLYW project is led and managed from Ramblers Central Office with volunteer DLYW co-ordinators around the country. I have volunteered to be the Essex - ECC area only - Ramblers DLYW co-ordinator. But I need help with eyes on old maps and with trawling historical documents. We need to home in on and collect evidence for those paths which would be useful e.g., to make a circular route, to connect current PROWs, to identify paths in areas where there are not many PROWs at present.

The email of 25 August with the subject line "An update from Don't Lose Your Way" from Jack at the Ramblers was sent to everybody who had signed up to express an interest in Lost Ways. This email had a link to the Ramblers DLYW web pages and so to the "map of lost paths" which is work in progress <https://dontloseyourway.ramblers.org.uk/> > click on square "map of lost paths"

Much historical documentation is available on-line but we will probably also need to use the Essex Records Office in Chelmsford. Physical fitness to walk paths is not required as by definition most of these paths are "lost" and so are not used now.

If you are interested in possibly helping with this project, please register your interest by clicking on one of the "join the movement" links on the don't lose your way campaign page on the main Ramblers web site [www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk). If you already have a log-in to the Ramblers Assemble pages, you should not have to register but should just be able to log in.

Please also let me, Katherine Evans, know when you have registered or if you have problems or any questions by emailing me at [ramblers.ke@gmail.com](mailto:ramblers.ke@gmail.com).

DATE/LEADER	MARCH WALKS	MAP REF/ POST CODE
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> 10.00 am Janet & Clive 01787 373173 07484 377254	<b>SUDBURY, SUFFOLK</b> Park in free car park at end of Quay Lane. Walking via Belchamp Water and Bulmer. Picnic lunch Approx 10 miles	EXP 196 TL 871409 CO10 2AN
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> 10.00 am Ann S 01787 374454 07467 185478	<b>STOKE BY NAYLAND</b> Park in recreation ground car park. Undulating walk via Polstead. Picnic lunch. 10 miles	EXP 196 TL 986362 CO6 4QY
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> 10.00 am Geoff 01787 472061 07885 486837	<b>FRINTON AND NAZE NATURE RESERVE</b> Park on Esplanade and meet outside main toilet block opposite Frinton High Street. Coffee option at end of walk. Picnic lunch. 8-9 miles	EXP 184 TM 238195 CO13 9AU
Tue 22 <sup>nd</sup> 10.00 am Gwen 01245 382399 07976 709056	<b>GOSFIELD</b> Park by the lake. Bring refreshments as required. Easy pace. 6-7 miles	EXP 195 TL 775292 CO9 1UG
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> 10.00 am Teresa 07505 063108	<b>RAYNE</b> Park at station. Walking to Andrewsfield and Watch House Green. Refreshments at end of walk if desired. Picnic lunch. Approx 10 miles	EXP 195 TL 726224 CM77 6AB
Tue 29 <sup>th</sup> 10.00 am – 1.00 pm Geoff 01787 472061 07855 486837	<b>P3 WORKING PARTY</b> Bring gloves and secateurs. Location to be arranged.	

**WISHING EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS  
NEW YEAR WITH LOTS OF HAPPY WALKING IN 2022**

