

**WINTER PROGRAMME
DECEMBER 2018 – MARCH 2019**

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SECRETARY	Vacant
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COMMITTEE	Clive Collins, Ronnie Davis, 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 New Year, and contains our usual variety of walks. We look forward to seeing you on some of these group walks, even if you usually prefer to walk independently.

In July our group paid a visit to the Henry Moore studios and gardens at Perry Green, near Bishops Stortford, where we were treated to a guided tour of the centre and we learnt about the life and work of the sculptor Henry Moore, who was apparently one of the wealthiest people in the country in his latter years. In September some of our members walked the 53 mile length of the Nidderdale Way in Yorkshire, and in October a small group spent a week on the Norfolk coast walking several sections of the coastal path around Wells-next-the-Sea. We spent one day in the historic pilgrimage centre of Walsingham, visiting the various shrines and the slipper chapel, and travelling there from Wells by the local miniature railway. Thanks to Ronnie for organising the holiday and booking such comfortable accommodation by the quayside.

Following a meeting in April and subsequent joint working party in August with Essex County Council, the local highway authority, our group is now able to undertake clearance and maintenance work on the county's footpath network under the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) scheme subject to a few simple notifications. Please refer to programme for details of future working parties.

At the time of writing the public inquiry into the proposed closure of pedestrian crossings by Network Rail in Essex is drawing to a close and the Ramblers have been a principal objector to some of these closures alongside certain landowners and local authorities affected by the programme of closures and diversions. Thanks to those members who have given evidence or who have acted as witnesses to the inquiry. I have personally attended a couple of sessions and found the process to be very interesting although I do not envy the teams on either side who have had to attend the inquiry for the entire duration. It now remains for the Inspector to evaluate the mountain of evidence presented to him and to come to a conclusion which is likely to take many months.

Our post Christmas lunch will be held on 12 January at the Five Bells in Colne Engaine and is usually well attended so please book your place as soon as possible. Further details are shown in this programme.

Happy rambling!

Geoff

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TUESDAY, 4 DECEMBER – Group footpath clearance - see programme for details.

SUNDAY, 9 DECEMBER – Walkers' Carol Service – see programme for further information.

SATURDAY, 12 JANUARY – Post Christmas lunch will be held at the Five Bells, Colne Engaine, 7 Mill Lane, CO6 2HY. (2 courses £19.50, 3 courses £24.00) Please give name and menu choices to Ronnie no later than 16 December. Phone 01787 479177 / 07974 635627 or email veronica.davis@virgin.net

SATURDAY, 19 JANUARY – Colchester Heritage Trail – if using concessionary bus pass, drivers will need to take both pass and vehicle registration details to the help desk in the P&R building to register. (Only applies to first visit) Non-concessions £3 per journey.

TUESDAY, 5 FEBRUARY – Planning/Committee Meeting. See programme for venue etc. Do you have anything you would like to suggest or discuss?

DATE/LEADER	DECEMBER WALKS	MAP REF
Sat 1 st 10.00 am Geoff 01787 472061 07885 486837	BROAKES WOOD, GOSFIELD Park off Hedingham Road in Broakes Wood 5 miles	EXP 195 TL 786314 CO9 1UP
Sun 2 nd 10.00 am Ronnie 01787 479177 07974 635627	GREENSTEAD GREEN Park by recreation ground. Bring snack if wished. Approx 6.5 miles	EXP 195 TL 822278 CO9 1QZ
Tue 4 th 10.00 am Geoff 01787 472061 07885 486837	HALSTEAD - FOOTPATH CLEARANCE Park by Empire in Butler Road. Bring gloves and secateurs. Geoff will bring a dozen pairs of telescopic shears. All welcome.	EXP 195 809307 CO9 1LL
Sat 8 th 10.00 am Teresa 07505 063108	RAYNE TO GREAT DUNMOW Park at Rayne station. Walk to Great Dunmow along Flich Way. Catch 133 bus back. Picnic lunch. Possible refreshments at end depending on bus times. Approx 8 miles	EXP 195 TL 726224 CM77 6AB
Sun 9 th 10.00 am Gwen W & Ann B 01245 382399 07976 709056 01371 856659 07756 559179	CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE, MANNINGTREE Park at Manningtree station (small charge). Circular walk then Lawford church for Walkers'/Cyclists' carol service. Please bring torch (essential) for walk back to station. Please wear something Christmassy! Picnic lunch. 7 miles	EXP 196 TM 094322 CO11 2LH
Sat 15 th 10.00 am Teresa 07505 063108	HATFIELD FOREST Walk starts Stane Street Halt on Flich Way. Park lay-by in Takely Street (B1256) west of Green Man pub or National Trust car park (charge for non-members). Possible refreshments at Shell House. 6 miles	EXP 183/195 TL 547212 CM22 6QW (TL 55120 CM22 6NG)
Sun 16 th 10.00 am Val 01206 736950 07790 119654	LAYER DE LA HAYE Meet along New Cut by school and village hall. Picnic lunch. Approx 7/8 miles	EXP 184 TL 970205 CO2 0EH



*WISHING EVERYONE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR WITH LOTS OF HAPPY WALKING IN 2019*

DATE/LEADER	JANUARY WALKS	MAP REF
Sun 6 th 10.00 am Ann S 01787 374454 07467 185478	LONG MELFORD COUNTRY PARK Picnic lunch. Approx 10 miles	EXP 196 TL 858437 CO10 9HH
Tue 8 th 10.00 am Gwen W & Ann B 01245 382399 07976 709056 01371 856659 07756 559179	LITTLE WALTHAM Park in village CP which can be found between church and main street, signed next to Memorial Hall. Walking via Chatham Green. Bring snack or lunch if preferred. Easy pace. 6 miles	EXP 183 TL 711128 CM3 3LT
Sat 12 th 1.00 pm for 1.30 pm Ronnie 01787 479177 07974 635627	POST CHRISTMAS LUNCH at Five Bells, Colne Engaine. See dates for your diary for further details.	EXP 195 TL 852303 CO6 2HY
Sun 13 th 10.00 am Janet & Clive 01787 373173 07484 377254	NAYLAND Street parking in Court Street near the Anchor Inn. Picnic lunch. 10 miles	EXP 196 TL 965343 CO6 4JL
Sat 19 th 10.00 am Ann B 01371 856659 07756 559179	COLCHESTER HERITAGE TRAIL A walk around historic Colchester approx 2.5 hours. Meet Colchester Park & Ride, A12 junction 28, Cuckoo Farm Way. Meal available at end. See dates for your diary for further parking details. 3-4 miles	EXP 184 TM 001294 CO4 5JA
Sun 27 th 10.00 am Geoff 01787 472061 07885 486837	GREENSTEAD GREEN VIA HALSTEAD Park by recreation ground. Picnic lunch. 10 miles	EXP 195 TL 822278 CO9 1RG

FOOTNOTES

Total walks this year: Essex 65, Suffolk 12, Hertfordshire 3, London 1 totalling 81. This is seven more than last year in spite of some unavoidable cancellations. Thank you to all our hard-working leaders who have put on walks during the year providing a great variety for us to enjoy. We have certainly had some interesting themed walks over the past months. Looking forward to another exciting year of walks.

A big thank you also to members who have organized socials for the group this year and also to the members whose walks included social events.

SEVERE WEATHER

A reminder, if we should experience bad weather this winter, please contact the leader to confirm walk is still taking place.

DATE/LEADER	FEBRUARY WALKS	MAP REF
Sat 2 nd 10.00 am Ronnie 01787 479177 07974 635627	HEYBRIDGE Park at Daisy Meadow car park. Tea shop at end. Picnic lunch. Approx 8.5 miles	EXP 176 TL 871068 CM9 4RY
Tue 5 th 11.00 am	COMMITTEE/PLANNING MEETING At Gosfield Village Hall (Maurice Rowson Hall) in Bill Pasfield Room. Everyone invited.	EXP 195 TL 782296 CO9 1UB
Sat 9 th 10.00 am Teresa 07505 063108	GOSFIELD TO BEAZLEY END Park at Gosfield Lake. Picnic lunch. 9.75 miles	EXP 195 TL 775292 CO9 1UG
Sun 10 th 10.00 am Janet & Clive 01787 373173 07484 377254	LONG MELFORD COUNTRY PARK Picnic lunch 12 miles	EXP 196 TL 858437 CO10 9HH
Tue 12 th 10.00 am Gwen W & Ann B 01245 382399 07976 709056 01371 856659 07756 559179	CASTLE HEDINGHAM Meet at Memorial Hall car park behind church. Bring refreshments if required. Easy pace. 6 miles	EXP 195 TL 784356 CO9 3DA
Sun 17 th 10.00 am Maureen 01376 330978 07962 817414	TERLING VIA WHITE NOTLEY Park on track near village hall. Picnic lunch. Approx 11 miles	EXP 183 TL 772151 CM3 2PN
Sun 24 th 10.00 am Lynda 01376 334070 07944 623269	BOCKING Meet at St Mary's church. Circular walk. Picnic lunch. Approx 9 miles	EXP 195 TL 757257 CM7 5JY
Tue 26 th 10.00 am Gwen W & Ann B 01245 382399 07976 709056 01371 856659 07756 559179	PLESHEY (2) Park at village hall. Walking towards Mashbury. Bring snack or lunch if preferred. Easy pace. Approx 6 miles	EXP 183 TL 6622142 CM3 1HA

Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk 12–19 October 2018

Six North West Essex members (Geoff and a bevy of beauties) set off for a week's walking in Wells, arriving at a lovely house overlooking the quay, Pirates Lookout. Our first day was wall to wall sunshine so we set off along the coast to Burnham Overy via the new Lookout at Holkham National Nature Reserve. A truly beautiful day where we enjoyed a lunch stop on the beach.

Not so promising on the Sunday with rain forecast, but ignoring that we set off along the coastal path heading for Stiffkey and beyond. We didn't manage the 'beyond' as wet and cold we dried out by a log fire at The Red Lion, Stiffkey, and headed back by bus. This village had a bizarre infamous Rector who in 1932 was excommunicated due to a scandal and then joined a circus where he preached from a lion's cage – until he trod on Freddie the lion's tail. That was the end of him!

The weather on Monday had not improved so we travelled by bus to Sheringham and had a hot drink in the Funky Mackerel Cafe before heading along the cliffs back toward Wells. An invigorating walk to Weybourne where the strong wind helped us along by a very angry sea.

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DATE/LEADER	MARCH WALKS	MAP REF
Sat 2 nd 10.00 am Maria 01376 331510 07950 379083	BRAINTREE RAILWAY STATION Parking charges apply. Picnic lunch. Approx 10 miles	EXP 195 TL 761228 CM7 3QL
Sun 3 rd 10.00 am Ann S 01787 374454 07467 185478	BURES Park at recreation ground. Picnic lunch. Approx 10 miles	EXP 196 TL 908339 CO8 5BS
Sun 10 th 10.00 am Jo 01376 561574 07778 016761	FINGRINGHOE Park on road near Whalebone pub. Walking via Abberton. Picnic lunch. Approx 10 miles	EXP 184 TM 029203 CO5 7BG
Tue 12 th 10.00 am Gwen W & Ann B 01245 382399 07976 709056 01371 856659 07756 559179	PLESHEY (3) Park at village hall. Walking towards Chignall Smealey. Bring refreshments if required. Easy pace. Approx 6 miles	EXP 183 TL 6622142 CM3 1HA
Sat 16 th 10.00 am Maria 01376 331510 07950 379083	CHALKNEY WOOD Park in lay-by on Tey Road. Picnic lunch. 8.5 miles	EXP 195 TL 872273 CO6 2LD
Sun 17 th 10.00 am Lynda 01376 334070 07944 623269	PATMORE HEATH, HERTFORDSHIRE Parking on Heath. Right at Catherine Wheel pub then right again. Circular walk via Braughing. Picnic lunch. 8 miles	EXP 194 TL 442255 SG11 2LQ
Tue 19 th 10.00 am Gwen W & Ann B 01245 382399 07976 709056 01371 856659 07756 559179	EARLS COLNE Park behind the Co-op. Walking via Chalkney Wood. Bring refreshments if required. Easy pace. 6 miles	EXP 195 TL 856290 CO6 2RZ
Sun 24 th 10.00 am Maureen 01376 330978 07962 817414	CATTAWADE Park at picnic car park at end of Stour Valley Path. Picnic lunch. 10 miles	EXP 197 TM 101332 CO11 1QW
Sat 30 th 10.00 am Teresa 07505 063108	STEBBING TO GREAT BARDFIELD Park near bowling Green. Picnic lunch. 12 miles	EXP195 TL 662243 CM6 3SG

Tuesday was a miniature steam train ride to the Pilgrimage Centre of Walsingham, a fun way to arrive and return and an interesting day full of Christian and Russian Orthodox history. Walsingham can be very crowded so we were fortunate to be able to wander round and walk along the Pilgrim Way with few people visiting that day.

Wednesday Geoff had contacted the Fakenham Ramblers and we joined them for a 6 mile walk. It was a treat to be led and they were friendly and welcoming, with lots of chat about local walking and the Ramblers Association.

Our last walking day, Thursday, we decided to retrace our wet walk earlier in the week and walked along the coast as far as we wanted, some to Morston, Blakeney and Cley. A super walk much of it overlooking salt marshes where there was much birdlife. We left on Friday bringing home happy memories of our week in Wells, lovely accommodation (thanks Ronnie), walking, eating, drinking and good company.