



Photo: Cov Shackleford Wimbledon to Kingston Dec 25

## Celebrating 62 Years of Rambling

### Newsletter March 2026

**A Reminder for all Walkers.** All walks organised by the group are led by volunteers, who put considerable effort into planning and leading the walk. You will be helping them, yourself, and the other walkers if you take note of the following article on page 4 which is taken from our website: <https://www.kingston-ramblers.org.uk/walkers-pages/walking-with-kingston-group.html>

#### Your Committee

|                                 |                              |                                    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Chair                           | Barbara Crow                 | chair@kingston-ramblers.org.uk     |
| Secretary and Publicity Officer | Brenda Horwill               | secretary@kingston-ramblers.org.uk |
| Treasurer                       | Calli Scott                  | treasurer@kingston-ramblers.org.uk |
| Membership Secretary            | Janet Mackay                 | kingstonramblers@gmail.com         |
| Web Master                      | Paul Draper<br>Steve Ransome | webmaster@kingston-ramblers.org.uk |
| Footpath Secretary              | David Cooper                 | footpaths@kingston-ramblers.org.uk |
| Other Committee Members         | John Dixon<br>Steve Ransome  |                                    |
|                                 |                              |                                    |

A reminder that this is now only a newsletter. The Walks Programme is now available only online.

**All Walkers please read the updated Guidance to Walkers on Page 4.**

**A plea for help!** Kingston Ramblers is run by a small group of volunteers and walks are led by a few utterly awesome Walk Leaders (almost all the Committee also lead walks). Can you lend a hand on the Committee or with identifying routes for walks? Please approach anyone on the Committee or email or call Barbara: [chair@kingston-Ramblers.org.uk](mailto:chair@kingston-Ramblers.org.uk) or 07811 265479. If you think you couldn't be of help, you really don't know until you ask!

**The Surrey Area AGM** was held on Saturday 7th February. The AGM itself was completed in under 20 minutes; we then heard from Lucy Robinson the Chair of Trustees regarding the changes to Governance, following which a number of tables were set up as brief workshops to discuss difficult issues that have been foxing KR for some time. At the end the newly voted in Area Chair Barbara Crow, asked if this type of workshop was useful - there was a resounding Yes! So there'll be more of these!

**Walks in the Programme.** We are getting very thin on the ground for walks in the near future. Walks tend to now be added at relatively short notice, please ideally not less than 2 weeks, but we really do need some more walks in this programme. Walk Leaders are progressing walk recce's, but if you know of a walk, please approach a WL and perhaps you and a WL can recce it together, but still giving you credit for it!

**The [Great British Spring Clean campaign](#)** runs from 13-29 March. Barbara Crow will be leading a litter picking walk in support of this campaign. The date is to be Sunday 22nd March but the venue is as yet undecided. Watch out in the programme for details.

**[Drink Bottle Deposit Return Scheme](#)** - you may remember the drink bottle return scheme of olden days? It's returning at LAST! From 1st October 2027, plastic and metal drink containers (not glass) will have a further 20p added to the price. On return this 20p will be refundable. This should eventually contribute to a reduction in litter waste.

**Ambles** are generally shorter, and slightly slower walks run on either Thursdays or Tuesdays. They are for everyone, perhaps the longer walks are too much at the moment, you are returning from injury or just starting your walking journey and the 3 or 4 mile Ambles are a good starting point. Whatever your reason, come along. The dates for the forthcoming Ambles are listed here and can be found online. **Ambles coming up:** Thursdays 5th March (David C), 2nd April (Paul D), 7th May (Janet M), 4th June, and one **Tuesday** (so far) on 24th Feb (David C).

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We have also held 3 walks so far aimed specifically at the **Neurodiverse community**. Neurodiversity includes those on the Autistic spectrum, ADHD, ADD, dyslexia, dyspraxia, Tourettes syndrome. A new Walk Leader - Mark Wood - leads these walks, the next one is set to be on Sunday 19th April.

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**A huge THANK YOU to our Walk Leaders past and present.** Without our Walk Leaders we could not have a programme at all. If you have even a tiny bit of interest in joining our Walk Leading group - please get in touch with anyone on the Committee.

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**The 3rd (2026) Kingston Photo Competition is to be renamed “Photo Favourites”.**

It's not really a competition, it's something to encourage you all to take photos, to record our walks, for prosperity and for fun. There will be two categories of entry:

- 1) The vast majority of you who take pictures for fun (mostly with a phone camera)
- 2) Anyone who is in a photography club (often with fancy cameras and some previous experience of taking photos and entering competitions).

We asked for your views on the previous competitions and will soon be coming up with some simple guidelines to help you enter. We'll probably keep (1) as favourites being voted for by all the Ramblers. We might judge (2) differently. **The winning themes for this year are to be “Water” and “Skies”.** The photos should be taken between Oct 2025 to Sep 2026

**We also are looking at doing some infrequent “Photogenic walks” – to be called Cam-bles?** Maybe once a quarter? More info soon - check the website.

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**Protect our Paths:** At the AGM in November, we asked for suggestions on how to use some of the money we have in our account and a suggestion was made by Maggie M to give the money to a worthy Ramblers cause. You might have seen the Protect our Paths campaign and we can confirm that we have now given £1000 to this campaign from Kingston Ramblers. - thanks for the suggestion, Maggie!

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## Holidays in 2026

**Have you booked your holiday(s) yet for this year?**

**The Kingston Ramblers 2026 Walking Weekend will be from 15th to 18th May and be based at Canterbury.** Further details to follow. While the weekend is fully booked, there is a waiting list and cancellation places do often become available.

**Also Ramblers run holidays all over the world.** You can see where you can go by [clicking here](#). If you do book a holiday and you mention that you are part of Kingston Ramblers, the holiday company pay KR a small fee: £10 for each UK holiday booked, £20 for each short haul holiday booked, and £30 for each long haul holiday booked.

**Bavaria (Germany) walking week:** If there is enough interest, I am considering running another week's walking in Bavaria, Germany. The week will be in October 2026 and whether it goes ahead or not, will depend on demand. I'd need at least 10 people to make it viable. There are quite a few people who have visited the area if you'd like to hear from other Ramblers, please drop a line [to Barbara](#) if you'd like more information and/or to know who has previously attended so that they could be approached.

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There are also **several vacant roles at Surrey Area** that need to be filled. Surrey Area looks after 16 groups, Kingston being one of them. The below are links to the Job Role

Descriptions:

[Surrey Area Publicity Officer](#)

[Surrey Area Website Officer](#) Now filled !! Hurrah!

[Surrey Area Footpaths Secretary](#)

[Surrey Area Secretary](#)

**Please consider applying - I know we are all short of time - we can only continue with voluntary assistance. It might mean approximately 3 hours of your help per month.**

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In Kingston, a **footpath through Chessington World of Adventures** has been temporarily closed and you now have to walk round three sides of a rectangle. The signage there could be improved. There has been little activity this year. There is scope for much more in the fields of Don't Lose Your Way, and rights of way improvement. Another recce of this route is needed to assess if any actions have been followed up. [David C]

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### Upcoming dates:

**Balsam bashing will return around May time.** Generally on Tuesdays - there is a dedicated 'Conservation Group' in the WhatsApp Community for dates. Balsam, a non-native species, starts to rear its head and a dedicated group of people attempt to reduce its impact on our native species and on it choking our rivers.

**Autumn Fest:** Held at Manor Park near Worcester Park, a small but busy stall has been held in the past. Can you help us staff the stall on **12th September**?

**Summer Picnic:** Our 3rd annual Summer picnic will take place on **Saturday 19th September** a walk will be arranged to intersect the Canbury Pavilion in Kingston.

**Surbiton Festival:** A Kingston Ramblers stall will need helpers on Saturday 26th September.

**The Kings Soup:** A stall at Claremont Gardens in **October**. Can you help us spread the word and encourage walkers to join us?

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**IMPORTANT: All walkers are responsible for their own safety. You are advised to carry a small first aid kit plus a hat and sun protection (in the summer) and a torch (in the winter). Always carry water!**

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### Before the Walk

- Read the walk details on our website or the Ramblers App. Decide if the walk is suitable for you, length, difficulty, weather conditions. Is there an opt out to shorten the walk?
- Wear suitable stout footwear and outdoor clothing appropriate for the season and weather.
- Pack slightly more food and drinks than you need even if there is a pub or cafe at the lunch stop. You need about 1.5 litres or more of water for a full day walk.
- In the days before the walk, check the walk details for any changes to train or bus times.

- Carry an ICE (In Case of Emergency) Card. You can create your own, your Walk Leader may be carrying some on the walk, or you can order them free of charge click [here for info on how to order](#). Or ask your Walk Leader who will hopefully have some too.

The Ramblers website offers advice on joining a walk [Click Here to read the guidance](#)

### **At the Start**

- Turn up at the start point about 10 minutes before the start time given in the walk description. Train walks will show train times enabling adequate time to get to the start.
- Introduce yourself to the leader and sign the walk register when asked.
- Listen to the walk briefing as it may contain important safety information.

### **During the Walk**

- Above all, listen to and follow the leader's guidance.
- Please do not walk in front of the leader, you do not know where to turn and do keep in visual contact with those ahead of you and, more importantly, those behind.
- When walking on roads keep in single file on the right-hand side to face oncoming traffic, unless indicated otherwise by the leader. At hazardous road crossings they may want you to cross at a specific point and under their instruction.
- Tell the leader or backmarker if you need to stop at any time or leave the group before the end of the walk.
- Pass a message to the leader if the group becomes too stretched out.

### **At the End**

- Thank the leader(s) and anybody else who helped to manage the walk
- If you get a lift to and from a walk you should offer to contribute to the driver's costs. (suggested 10p/mile).

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*WhatsApp: To join our closed WhatsApp Community email Barbara Crow on **barbaraanncrow@gmail.com** giving your mobile phone number.*

### **Where to get more information**

Our social media sites:

Web: **[www.kingston-ramblers.org.uk](http://www.kingston-ramblers.org.uk)**

Facebook: **[www.facebook.com/kingstonramblers](https://www.facebook.com/kingstonramblers)**