

Issue 6

AUGUST 2025

# EAST DEVON RAMBLINGS

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## SUMMER 2025 EDITION

Welcome to the summer edition of East Devon Ramblings. So far this year we have been blessed with a generous amount of warm and dry weather which, apart from a few extremely hot days, has been perfect for walking. Thank you to everyone who has sent in photographs taken on their walks during the summer. We have been unable to display all of them but appreciate your contribution.



(Thanks to John Veith for this photo)

If you have any snippets of information that you think would be of interest to our members and could go in future editions of Ramblings, please contact one of the committee members.

## EDR LOGOS



For those of you who are new to Ramblers you may not be aware that you can purchase Tee shirts, polos, fleeces, hats, sweatshirts and more, all with our own East Devon Ramblers Logo.

There is a multitude of colours to choose from for each item and costs are very reasonable.

For more information contact SHIPSHAPE in Exmouth. [sales@shipshape.online](mailto:sales@shipshape.online)



## SIDMOUTH CROQUET SOCIAL

A full complement of 16 Ramblers joined the social evening of croquet at Sidmouth in July.

Doubles teams were selected randomly and after two rounds of “friendly” competition Eve was the final winner.



Gorgeous weather helped and the warm pasty supper rounded the evening off. Thanks to Roy, Patti, Pam, Jim, Malcolm, and John who helped make the evening a success.

## HONESTY CAFÉ AT COLATON RALEIGH

Helen, a former member of Steyning Ramblers has just opened the Honesty Café at 3 Pike Cottages, Church Road, Colaton Raleigh.

It is at the front of her property and almost opposite the church for which she is fundraising for the fabric of the building.

All are welcome to make themselves a refreshing cup of tea or coffee or enjoy a soft drink, and sometimes there will be cake!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *Fish and chips walks.*

Wednesday 1st October

There are two walks leaving from Colyton; a **7.5-mile leisurely** walk or **moderate 10.5-mile** walk. After the walk there will be fish and chips and a drink in Colyton Memorial Social club around 5.30pm. Booking not required but bring cash for the food and drink.

### *Shute Barton National Trust Tour and walk*

Shute Barton National Trust Tour Wednesday 8th October at 9.50am.

Shute Barton is only open to the public 8 days a year, so this is a rare opportunity to discover the history of the house and the people who lived in it going back to the 12th Century. Free for NT members but please bring your card, £6 for non-members, please bring cash. If you would like to come on this 40-minute tour please book with Jas by 25<sup>th</sup> September; numbers are limited, 01297 552313 or [jasmine\\_mike.list@yahoo.com](mailto:jasmine_mike.list@yahoo.com) There is a walk after the tour at 11.15.

## WHAT IS A POP-UP WALK?

You may have seen walk gaps in recent programmes annotated with “[Please check the website for a pop-up walk](#)”.

### *So, what is a pop-up walk?*

A pop-up walk, is a walk that is added to our walks programme after the printed programme has been issued, and can be viewed instead, via the Ramblers website [www.ramblers.org.uk/east-devon](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/east-devon), or via the Ramblers app on your smartphone or tablet.

### *Who can add a pop-up walk?*

Any East Devon Ramblers walk leader, can add a pop-up walk on any of the free dates, and we invite leaders to fill them if they can. This may suit those who were unable to commit to a walk date earlier.

### *How do I know that a specific date is still free?*

Look up the date online. The Ramblers app will normally only show walks for up to a month ahead, but if you adjust the filter to ‘Set Dates’, you can usually view up to two months ahead.

### *How do I add a pop-up walk?*

Forward the walk details in the usual format to Graham K or Jas, and they will add the walk to the Ramblers website and app as soon as they can. Please allow a minimum of a week’s notice for processing.

### *Can I add a pop-up walk on any other date?*

We always welcome additional walks to our walks programme and prefer them to be offered to fill empty dates first, but we are happy to consider any walk offers.

### *Can I advertise a pop-up walk by word of mouth?*

**No.** To be classed as an official Rambler walk, and thereby qualify for **Ramblers leader liability insurance**, walks must be advertised in at least one of the following: - printed programme, the Ramblers website, or Ramblers app.

## SUPPORTING WALK LEADERS AND BACKMARKERS

How to keep your leader relaxed and happy, with a nod to new members, and a reminder to our more seasoned ones.

- Try not to walk ahead of the leader unless you are invited to do so. Leaders may differ in how they like to lead, but most prefer to lead from the front.
- Follow the pace set by the leader – they will be making sure that the group doesn’t get spread out.
- At any re-group point, wait for the leader to lead off – those at the back may need a longer rest.
- Offer to help with gates and electric fences, particularly if there is any livestock in a field or if a gate is heavy or tied or chained in a specific manner, this is especially helpful with a large group as a shouted message of “gate to close” or “rope over gate” may get lost as it is passed along.
- Make sure walkers behind, are aware of any trip hazard or turn off.
- When walking towards the rear of the group, keep an eye on the backmarker, they may need help to close a gate or be held up with someone stopping. If necessary, let someone ahead know if there is a delay, so they can alert the leader.

Leaders spend time planning and recceing walks, so your support helps ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all. Thank you.



## ALL THINGS CARS

### *Car sharing on walks*

Some of our walks have limited parking space so car sharing is a good option.

Car sharing has a beneficial impact on our environment; it reduces the number of vehicles on the road, cuts down on fuel costs, and lowers our environmental impact. Plus, it's a chance to enjoy some extra company and conversation before and after the walk. If you are open to sharing a ride or are looking for one why not consider setting up a WhatsApp group and car sharing?

To facilitate car sharing, a number of WhatsApp groups have been set up. Walkers can 'post' they are going on a particular walk, mentioning where they live, and are looking to car share. Anyone interested would then be able to buddy up. Unless someone does not have their own car, those getting lifts are also expected to offer lifts. To join a group just send a WhatsApp message. You can join more than one group if you want. The groups are:

- Seaton/ Colyton car share: 07719 380 718
- Sidmouth: 07922 651 426

**Does anyone want to organise an Exmouth WhatsApp group?**

### *Car parking*

With rising fees for parking in council and private spaces and the ongoing difficulty in finding sufficient parking to start our walks, we are always grateful to our local community and village halls where we are not obliged to pay by the hour. Members may not be aware that our walk leaders ask permission from the hall provider to use their space and usually offer a donation, collected on the day, in return.

Please offer at least £2 per car for this benefit, more if you wish, so that we can continue to use spaces while we walk and support our local organisations. This also promotes ED Ramblers positively in our community. Don't forget to car-share where you can, there are various WhatsApp groups to enable this. The cash is always passed on to the hall and is much appreciated.

## FROM THE COMMUNITY RANGER IN EAST DEVON & BLACKDOWN HILLS

Please find below information about the introduction of parking charges at the Trinity Hill site in East Devon managed by Forestry England.

### *Background*

Visitors and residents are probably aware that Trinity Hill is a working woodland. Although Trinity Hill isn't dedicated under the Countryside Rights of Way Act, we encourage permissive public access across the areas owned by Forestry England and provide a car park to support recreation. We're proud to manage Trinity Hill for people to enjoy, for wildlife to flourish, and as a sustainable source of timber for the local economy.

### *What's happening now*

Since we created the car park at Trinity Hill, it has been free of charge. But, like all businesses, our costs continue to rise. This includes services like surface repairs and vegetation management. It is no longer sustainable for us to maintain the car park for free.

Modest car parking charges will help us to continue looking after Trinity Hill for everyone to enjoy. In anticipation of this, we have already extended and resurfaced the car park and installed new picnic benches for visitors.

### *Charges and payment methods*

Signs have been up since May explaining why and how much we will charge. The parking charges will come into effect from 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025. The charges are:

Cars			Van/Minibus
2 hours	4 hours	All Day	All Day
£2	£3	£5	£5

The car park will be managed by payment-on-arrival automatic number plate recognition (ANPR). Visitors can pay for parking by card or contactless at one of the machines in the car park or with the RingGo app (signal may vary by network).

### **Alternatives to paying for parking**

For regular visitors to Trinity Hill, we recommend Forestry England membership. This provides a year of unlimited parking at Trinity Hill and dozens of other Forestry England site for £94 per household, which equates to less than £2 per week: <https://www.forestryengland.uk/membership>

Visitors are also welcome at any of our public forests or woodlands without parking charges.

### **Who will manage the car park?**

Trinity Hill car park is owned and managed by Forestry England. It will continue to be managed under Forestry England's parking terms & conditions, which include adherence to the Highway Code and parking appropriately: <https://www.forestryengland.uk/parking>

I hope this information is useful to you. If residents or forest visitors have any questions, they can be reached at [westengland@forestryengland.uk](mailto:westengland@forestryengland.uk).

## **FOR SALE**

**Walking boots.** Ladies Meindl. Size 7. Used only twice. Excellent condition.

Selling at £90.00 (Cost £160.00)

Contact Ursula on 01395-579436

[ursulamoon@mac.com](mailto:ursulamoon@mac.com)



**Wellington Boots.** Dunlop. Fleece lined. Never used.

Selling at £35.00 (Cost £60.00)

Contact Ursula on 01395-579436

[ursulamoon@mac.com](mailto:ursulamoon@mac.com)



## **CALL FOR INPUT**

We hope that you found this edition of 'Ramblings' interesting and informative. If there is anything you would like to contribute to the next edition, please contact Eve on [yvonnemaunders@gmail.com](mailto:yvonnemaunders@gmail.com).