

Newsletter for January to March 2026

Group AGM

The group AGM took place on Friday November 21 at the Atherley Bowling Club, Southampton. 29 members attended. All the members of the committee were willing to continue for another year, but some posts are still vacant. The Treasurer reported that funds were healthy, and that he had again received this year a good donation from the Walking Partnership, a scheme that gives a payment to the Group when any of our members book a holiday with Ramble Worldwide.

After formal proceedings closed, there was a time for socialising. Ramblers 90th Anniversary was considered sufficient justification for a celebration cake - much enjoyed!



Footpaths

In the last newsletter, it was reported that the committee had discussed the setting up of a footpath maintenance team; other local Ramblers groups already have them. The proposal was agreed at the AGM and a dozen or so members have contacted Mark H-P to volunteer. Subsequently, Mark has approached Kate Martin at HCC. She is Community Engagement Ranger and is willing to give appropriate training.

Mark H-P is also continuing his footpath survey. After completing Ampfield, he intends to survey areas on the Waterside.

Walk Leader Registration

In July last year Ramblers announced that all walk leaders must either undertake the training modules on the website, or confirm their experience and self-certify, in order to continue leading. Our leaders have responded very well and nearly all our active leaders have registered and will be able to continue leading for the Group. A big thank you to all these leaders who are ensuring that we will still be able to offer such a full programme of walks.

New Walk Leaders

The registration exercise described above has shown that some leaders, previously registered, are no longer active, and we are always looking for new leaders to come forward. Our established leaders are available to give help and support to anyone willing to 'give it a try'. Please talk to a committee member or an existing leader if you would like to help; the online training modules are not onerous and do give helpful tips.

Christmas walk and lunch

This took place on Sunday Dec 7th at Brockenhurst. Despite the dire weather prospects, 24 members, suitably accoutred, arrived at the station car park for mulled wine, mince pies, etc. before the walk. Thanks to Kim & team for making the arrangements. John C led off the walkers at 10am in light rain, which soon turned to heavy rain. The group persevered and returned in time for the customary lunch in the Foresters Arms – but the afternoon walk was called off!

Southampton Group on The News!

In December we were approached by ITV Meridian who were preparing a news report on the "number of steps necessary in order to stay fit and that walking just 7,000 steps a day can lower the risk of serious health problems". We agreed on the Friday morning walk, being led by Mark from Netley on December 12th, as being appropriate. Several of the participants were interviewed prior to the start, and then the group were filmed – more than once! - as Mark led off. The report appeared on ITV Meridian evening news on Thursday 8th January – well done to everyone involved. See photo below.

Titanic walking tour

Following the success of the vaults walk, Kim has arranged another walk in Southampton. This will take in locations associated with the Titanic and will take place close to the anniversary of the sinking – on Tuesday 14th April, starting at 11am. The last date for booking will be Friday 10th April. The start point will be at a central point in Southampton; Kim will decide the best location and advise the members who book. The cost will be £10. Proceeds to the social fund. A booking form is at the end of this newsletter.

Evening Meal at Coriander Lounge, Thursday 26th March

An evening meal has been organised for Thursday 26th March at the Coriander Lounge Indian Restaurant, High Street. Southampton (opposite Holyrood Church), arriving at 7pm in time to start eating at 7.30. A table for 12 - 20 people has been reserved. No booking form required. Please reserve your place[s] by contacting Kim Golder at kimdecgolder@gmail.com / text to 07717 852997 Bookings will close on Sunday 22nd March. You will be contacted by Kim to select your meal choices, by email in the first instance. Payment directly to the restaurant, by customers, on the evening. The present menu can be seen on the restaurant website www.corianderlounge.com

Other social activities

Further ahead, a skittles evening has been arranged for Friday May 22nd at the Ship Inn, Redbridge. Put the date in your diary. Full details will be in the next newsletter.

The annual coach outing will be arranged for August / September; several destinations are being considered but suggestions from members will also be welcome.

Hampshire Area AGM

The Area AGM will be held on Saturday 14 February at the Crosfield Hall, Romsey – hosted by Romsey Group. There will be a walk in the morning – around the waterways and alleys of Romsey. The walk will start at the Romsey Rapids car park at 10am. It will end at the car park at 12.30. Car parking is free at the Rapids for 4 hours. The meeting in Crosfield Hall will start at 2pm. Mark Lavenstein will attend the meeting, representing the Board of Trustees.



ITV Meridian filming the start of Mark's walk

Present committee

Committee Role	Name	Contact details
Chairman	Vacant	
Secretary	John Catchlove	07907942780 secretary.sotonramblers@gmail.com
Treasurer	Duncan Fisher	02380634256 dfisher09@gmail.com
Membership	Mark Welford	sotoramb.walks@hotmail.com 07950984046
Footpath Officer	Mark Hamilton-Peach	footpath.sotonramblers@gmail.com
Programme Coordinator	Alan Farmer	alan.sotonra@gmail.com
Social Secretary	Kim de Courcy-Golder	social.sotonramblers@gmail.com
Newsletter editor	John Rothery	02380405017 trothery32@gmail.com
Member	Trish McPherson	shewasalways221b@gmail.com
Member	Jane Baxter	

The Ramblers' Association is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. Company registration no. 4458492. Registered charity, England & Wales no. 1093577, Scotland no. SC039799.

Titanic walking tour of Southampton
11.00am Tuesday 14th April 2026
Southampton Ramblers Group Booking Form

Kim will lead a walking tour of the Southampton locations associated with the Titanic. The start point will be at a central point in Southampton; Kim will advise you of the location. The cost will be £10. Please give your name and contact details on this form.

Name(s).....

Payment option (BACS payment is preferred)

(a) I am paying by BACS £..... to Unity Trust Bank sort code 60-83-01 a/c no. 20198921
(Include your name in the Ref field BACS payment saves us a £0.30 per cheque handling charge)

(b) I enclose a cheque for £..... payable to "Southampton Ramblers Association" and dated 10 April

Names

Email address

.....

IF NO EMAIL Contact Telephone no. (Landline or mobile.)

Please send the completed form and payment to Kim de Courcy-Golder, 7 The Vineyards, North Baddesley, Southampton SO52 9PP. Booking forms can be scanned or photographed and sent as an attachment to an email or WhatsApp to Kim. **Completed cheques and forms need to be received by Kim by Friday 10 April. Please do not send cash.** Enquiries to Kim on 07717 852997 or kimdecgolder@gmail.com

Conditions: In the event of cancellation due to insufficient support, cheques will be destroyed.