



RAMBLERS

Southampton

Newsletter for October - December 2025

Notice of Group AGM

The date for our group AGM has been set for Friday November 21 starting at 7.30pm. It will once again take place at the Atherley Bowling Club, Hill Lane, Southampton. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. There is ample free parking. The bowling club's cash bar will be available during the evening. The Notice is at the end of this newsletter, and once again we emphasise that the vacancies are open to all members and new faces on the committee would be very welcome.

After formal proceedings close, there will be time for socialising. We will have a cake in celebration of Ramblers' 90th anniversary.

ICE cards (In case of emergency)

The new credit card size cards are available and many have been given out on walks; if you have been missed, and would like to have one, ask your walk leader or a member of the Committee.

As indicated in previous Newsletters, In Case of Emergency information can be stored on most mobile phones and accessed, in an emergency, without requiring password access.

New Walk leaders

We are always very grateful for new leaders; please talk to a committee member or existing leader if you would like to help.

Footpaths

Mark H-P reported to the recent committee meeting that he is continuing his survey of the paths in our parishes. As a result of his notifications to HCC, several stiles in Netley Marsh have been made safer. He has attended Hampshire Area meetings where HCC representatives have advised that staff shortages reduce their ability carry out work on paths. The committee agreed that our group should try to organise a work party day for a date early in the New Year. We will acquire the necessary (non-power!) tools and protective equipment for clearance work. Please contact Mark if you are interested in helping; (footpath.sotonramblers@gmail.com).

Walk leader training

All walk leaders have been sent a direct communication from Ramblers, giving details of the requirement to complete the online training modules.

Walk leaders with sufficient "recent experience", or those with certain other qualifications, will not need to complete all the online training modules, but can read the walk leaders' handbook and "self-certify" with a simple on-line form. The timescale is to complete the online Walk Leader Training or Self-certify before the end of the year.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who volunteers to lead our walks and enables Southampton Ramblers to provide such a full programme of walks. We hope that, where necessary, leaders will be able to find time to complete the online modules (or self-certify) and continue to lead Rambler walks for our members in the New Year.

Walking tour of Southampton's medieval vaults

Kim, the Social Secretary (and a qualified tourist guide), arranged one of her tours of Southampton's medieval vaults for the group in August. Because of the restricted space in each vault, there was a limit on the size of the group, and applications soon exceeded the limit. To avoid disappointing the extra applicants, Kim arranged a second tour. Both tours were greatly enjoyed and generated some reserve in our social funds towards future events; thank you to Kim for putting in this effort. In view of the success, another visit to Southampton's heritage may be arranged next year.

September coach trip to Stourhead

The September coach trip went to Stourhead on Sunday Sept 14th. The weather forecast for the day did not bode well. John R led a walk around the landscape garden, which ended just before the heavy rain began. The longer walks had also started from the Stourhead visitor centre and did get caught by the rain. They were led by John C, assisted by Mark W (12 mile walk) and Duncan (6 mile walk). Despite the weather, it was a successful day which ended happily with everyone congregated in the tearoom. Many thanks to Kim who made the arrangements, and to the walk leaders.

If you have any suggestions for a destination next year, please advise Kim or any other committee member.

Christmas walks

This will be on Sunday Dec 7th at Brockenhurst, starting from the station car park at 10am. A morning walk will be led by John C and the afternoon walk at 2.00pm by Tim and Kathy, starting outside The Forester's Arms.

There will be the usual mulled wine and mince pies before the morning walk.

After the morning walk, we have reserved tables at the Foresters Arms for a 2 or 3 course Xmas lunch at 12.30.

If you want to reserve a place for the lunch, please contact Kim. Her new email address is social.sotonramblers@gmail.com and a booking form is enclosed, with the menu & prices.

The Christmas menu is also posted on the pub website at www.forestersarmsbrockenhurst.co.uk

In a change to previous years, payment for your meal[s] will be directly to the pub on the day. You may reserve a place and choose your meal now or just let Kim know that you would like to be contacted nearer the time. No need to pre-pay.

As an alternative for a lighter meal, the bar menu will be available, and this can be ordered on the day.

Notice of Annual General Meeting 2025

Notice of Meeting. The 2025 AGM of the Southampton Group will be held at 7.30pm on Friday 21st November 2025 at The Atherley Bowling Club, Hill Lane, Southampton, SO15 5DB.

Agenda

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of the last AGM on 29th November 2024.
3. Matters Arising.
4. Reports from Treasurer, Membership Secretary.
5. Election of Officers: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Walks Programme Co-Ordinator, Footpath Secretary, Social Secretary, Webpage Editor, Newsletter Editor.
6. Election of Committee Members.
7. Election of Hampshire Area representative.
8. Election of Independent Examiner.
9. Hampshire Area Matters.
10. National Matters.
11. AOB.

Nominations for Officers and Committee Members should be advised to the Secretary before the meeting if possible. Note that the Officers and Committee Members listed below are prepared to continue in office and to stand for re-election, but this does not exclude other nominations (see note at beginning of Newsletter).

Present committee

Committee Role	Name	Contact details
Chairman	Vacant	
Secretary	John Catchlove	02380553883 john.catchlove@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Duncan Fisher	02380634256 dfisher09@gmail.com
Membership	Mark Welford	sotoramb.walks@hotmail.com 07950 984046
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 rothery32@gmail.com
Member	Trish McPherson	shewasalways221b@gmail.com
Member	Jane Baxter	

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Southampton Ramblers
Christmas Walk Lunch Menu / Booking Form
12 noon Sunday 7th December 2025
Foresters Arms, Brockenhurst, SO42 7RR

On offer are 2 courses – Starter/Main or Main/Dessert for £ 24.99 pp; or 3 courses for £29.99pp.

Starters	
A	Sweet potato & coconut soup (vg, gf*)
B	Brie, honey & tiger prawns, garlic bruschetta with salad garnish (gf*)
C	Ham hock & piccalilli terrine with Stokes beer chutney & hot buttered toast(gf*)
D	Melon gondolier with fresh fruit (vg, gf)
Mains	
1	Roast crown of turkey served with homemade stuffing, pigs in blankets, yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes, festive vegetables and cranberry sauce (gf*)
2	Slow braised belly of pork with black pudding, sweet apple fritter, red cabbage, roast potatoes & gravy (gf*)
3	Baked halibut steak in a lemon & caper butter served with festive vegetables & new potatoes (gf)
4	Vegetarian yorkie bowl with camembert & cranberry sauce, veggie stuffing & sausage, root vegetables, braised red cabbage, roast potatoes & vegetarian gravy (v)
Dessert	
E	Traditional christmas pudding served with brandy cream sauce (V)
F	Raspberry & white chocolate cheesecake with a berry coulis (V)
G	Apple & redcurrant crumble served with custard(vg)
H	Cheeses & biscuits with ale & apple and red onion chutney

(gf*) means the dish can be modified to gluten free, if requested

Numbers are limited 20, so bookings will be taken on a first come basis. To make a booking please complete the form below by putting the relevant letters/numbers from menu list above

Menu Choices	Name	Menu Choices	Name

Names

Email address

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

Please send the form to Kim de Courcy-Golder. You can do this by email or WhatsApp attachment or by post, to one of the following: social.sotonramblers@gmail.com, 07717 852997 or 7 The Vineyards, North Baddesley, Southampton SO52 9PP.

Completed forms need to be received by Kim by Monday 24th November.