

Uttlesford Ramblers Newsletter October 2025

Hi fellow Ramblers

With more wintry weather on its way, October offers us crisp weather and colourful autumn foliage, along with the health benefits of keeping those seasonal blues at bay. It's an excellent time to see wildlife and perhaps participate in one of the fundraising challenges on offer. Mind, The Brain Tumour Charity, and Macmillan Cancer Support are all offering spooky themed charity walks this month. So get your spooky jive on and put your best foot forward! Don't forget to look out for the annual reports, going out this month, and please mark your diaries for the AGM in November. Hope to see you all there.

Evan Brigham, Chair



Work Party and Path Maintenance Update

With the end of the harvest and cleared fields, Essex Highways has access to undertake maintenance work and install bridges they do not have at other times.

Many bridges are being replaced, some in Uttlesford, due to the efforts of Uttlesford members, and I would like to thank Sylvia and Brian Hayes, and Ian Hawkins for their involvement in this. I hope others members will see the positive results of reporting defects and join them.

The Work Party has also been spending time clearing overgrown bridges over the last month. We have cleared 10 in Margaret Roding, one of which was so bad it could not be seen from the road it joined. That was again a report made by a member.



I guess there are over 150 bridges in Uttlesford, some near where you live. Please have a check and send me a photo if it needs work on it. It does get done, but only if it's known about. *The photo shows a broken bridge in Henham found on a group walk. It was reported to Essex Highways at the beginning of July this year and confirmed as repaired at the end of September.*

Alan Goffee, Footpath Secretary

AGM

This year's AGM will be held on Saturday 22nd November at Lindsell Village Hall. There will be leisurely walk lead by Sarah Bennison in the morning with a light lunch and the meeting afterwards. Details are on the walks programme at <https://www.uttlesfordramblers.org/walks/walks-programme.html>

This is the opportunity to meet with other members you may not see through the year, so whether you are a fair-weather walker, a hedge cutter or someone who is no longer able to join our walks, please come along, you never know who you might meet! Members of the committee are happy to chat to anyone if they have questions about how the group is run or they would like to join in any activities. We are looking for a new treasurer (see below) and secretary, so hope to fill these positions at the meeting. The group cannot run without volunteers to fill these two roles, so please think if you may have the right skills and can offer your support.

Hope to see you there.

Wanted - A New Group Treasurer

Matthew has acted as Treasurer since 2019 and would now like to step down and let someone else take over.

The role is not particularly onerous as we are a relatively small group. The main prerequisite would be access to some form of computer as the main banking activities are managed online. There is also a yearly requirement to complete a simple spreadsheet, provided by the Ramblers, to submit a copy of the annual accounts. The Treasurer is a member of the committee and normally provides an update of the bank balance at each committee meeting. Spending decisions are made by the committee as a whole but the Treasurer will provide guidance to ensure that such decisions fall within Rambler's guidelines.

Matthew will provide full hand-over sessions to anyone taking over and is happy to speak to anyone who would like more information before putting themselves forward. There is also extensive online guidance available from Ramblers Head Office.

Walks Programme Coordinator

In September, Alison Lecky's walk from Berden was particularly well supported with 22 Ramblers enjoying the walk (and possibly also the village fete). On the culinary front, walkers enjoyed a fair bit of variety with Thai, Turkish, Italian, take-away pizza, and a picnic in a park offering lunch alternatives. Who says the Uttlesford Ramblers always have a pub lunch?

October is starting to show spectacular autumn colours and there is going to be plenty of opportunity to enjoy those on our walks. Daphne's walk from Old Knebworth on 1st October gave us a taster and if you haven't participated you missed a treat (and the opportunity for a dance!). Later in the month, Anni is going to continue her culinary tour, leading a walk from an Italian restaurant (in Great Amwell) following on from her Turkish experience in September. With summer behind us, most of our October walks are going to be shorter walks of around 5-6 miles in or near Uttlesford, with some excursions into East Hertfordshire and a good mix of old favourites and lesser-known walking areas. As always, find details on the Uttlesford (or national) Rambler's websites. I hope to see you on one of our walks soon!

Joerg Kasproski, Walks Programme Coordinator

WhatsApp group

The WhatsApp group continues to be a useful way of communicating with members. We now have 45 members but more would be very welcome. Please contact Martin Woodhead on 07786194331 if you wish to join.

A change of stile



During our walks we often come across a tricky stile to cross, some we have reported to Essex Highways and they have either been repaired or replaced by kissing gates. The stile in the photo had to be negotiated when two of our members were on a walking holiday in Mallorca. It had been in a poor state of repair and had been temporarily replaced by a gate but has now been reinstated as a stile. It seems the Spanish have different attitude to accessibility than we do!