



**Sutton
Coldfield**

November/December 2025 Newsletter



Abundance of Cotoneaster berries in Ludlow

November

November comes and November goes,
With the last red berries and the first white snows.
With night coming early, and dawn coming late,
And ice in the bucket and frost by the gate.
The fires burn and the kettles sing,
And earth sinks to rest until next spring.

Elizabeth Coatsworth

Chairperson's Report

Our Christmas season got off to a great start with our Christmas walks and meal in the Ludlow area. A group walked a section of the Shropshire Way from Clee Village; a shorter walk took a circular route through the River Corve valley and a Town Trail route included the castle, the impressive St Laurence's Church and the riverside walk. We enjoyed our meal afterwards at the Fishmore Hall Hotel. Thanks to Rosie and Tony for arranging the meal, coach travel and for planning and leading their walks. Thanks also to Ken for an interesting alternative walk. We received a lovely message from our member, Sarah Peyton, who has relocated to Cornwall with her family. We wish her well in her new life and adventures on the SW Coastal Path.

Walks Programme

We were fortunate to have good weather for our November walks, despite generally damp weather throughout the month. Thursday walks included Chorley and the Two Saints' Way to Farewell and Clayhanger & Pelsall with sightings of deer. On Sunday walks we followed the recently completed Lichfield Greenway route as far as Hammerwich; the Birmingham Three Parks walk; Whittington and the Coventry Canal and Abbots Bromley on part of the Staffordshire Way. We returned to Birmingham by train for an interesting urban walk incorporating the Rea Valley route and the Worcester & Birmingham Canal. A wet start to December meant a low turnout for a varied walk starting from Chasetown via Hammerwich to Chasewater. This walk will be repeated next year in what is hoped will be better weather! We continued our Christmas celebrations with a lovely walk from Lichfield with a relaxing lunch afterwards at the Beerbohm Bar. The efforts of our walk leaders are much appreciated, so thanks to Ynyr, Stephen, Andy, Ranjit, John T, Sharon, Jeanie, Mike and Tom. I hope to see many of you this coming Sunday 21st December for our mince pie walks in Sutton Park (details on the website), or just make your own way to the Jamboree Stone for 11am to meet friends old and new. You'll be very welcome.

Coach Walks 2026

The spring coach walk is planned for Sunday 29th March in the Church Stretton area. The summer coach walk will be to Welshpool with the option of a visit to NT Powys Castle – the date in July to be confirmed and the Christmas walks and meal on 6th December 2026. Please make a note of these dates.

Ramblers' Warwickshire Area

The area report is now available to view on the website which includes details of the forthcoming Area AGM on Saturday 28th February 2026 at Fentham Hall, Hampton-in-Arden. Further details will be sent by email in January. Our group is usually well represented at the AGM.

Social Activities

There was a good attendance at our AGM last month with a convivial buffet supper afterwards. A reservation has been made for an evening meal at Da Vinci Restaurant, Aldridge on Wednesday 11th February at 7pm. Information about menus etc will be circulated after Christmas. There will also be details of a proposed visit to Sutton Arts Theatre in the spring organised by Ynyr. Look out for the email.

Walk Leader Training

As was mentioned at the AGM, all experienced Ramblers' walk leaders have to update their training record – now by February 2nd 2026 or they will be unable to lead walks. There is still time to complete online training or take up our offer of an informal group training session. Contact Andy if you would like more information.

As the year draws to a close, I would like to thank all our members for their enthusiasm for walking and fantastic support throughout the year, and to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and active New Year.

Barbara

Sutton Coldfield Ramblers 2025 AGM

The AGM was held on November 19th - the Minutes can be found on the website under the Documents Tab; suttoncoldfieldramblers/documents/agm-minutes

Following the AGM the SCR Committee comprises of;
Barbara Twort, Chairperson and Area Council delegate
Rosie Power, General Secretary and Membership Secretary
Tony Power, Treasurer
Andy Addison, Sunday Walks Coordinator
Ynyr Owen, Thursday Walks Coordinator
Rob Halley, Webmaster and Communications
Sharon Freedman, Newsletter Editor
John Harden, Footpaths Officer
June Wright, Welfare Officer

All members of the Committee can be contacted via the website using the Contacts tab.

Ahead of the AGM Julie Hamblen stood down as the Thursday Walks Coordinator but will remain as an ordinary member. Many thanks to Julie for all her hard work over the past years.

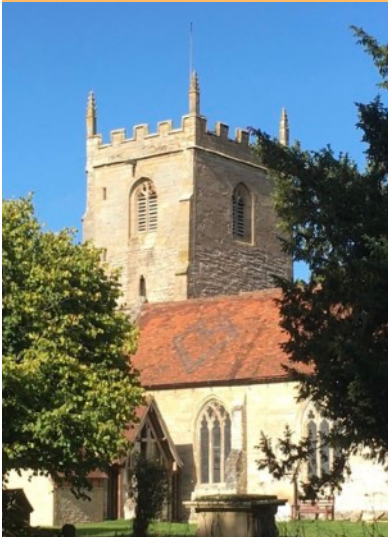
Walk Programme 2025 Review

Looking back over our walk photos from 2025 we have had an excellent mix of walk, including





Evening pub walks.



Many churches.



Along canals and rivers.



Through fields of sheep.



Many other animals spotted.....



Close to home urban walks using the train.



Further afield - coach walks and weekends away.

Check out more pictures and walk details on facebook.com/suttoncoldfieldramblers and on the Website - click on *Walks and Walking* and follow the tabs (or the orange arrow if using your mobile) to the tabs for Thursday, Sunday or Holiday Rambles.

Christmas Coach Walks and Meal at Ludlow

On Sunday December 7th the group enjoyed a coach trip to Ludlow, with a choice of three walks on offer followed by a Christmas meal at the Fishmore Hall Hotel.

The longest walk was led by Rosie with twelve Ramblers starting from Clee Hill village and walking back into Ludlow and to the hotel. Tony led the second walk with nineteen Ramblers walking from the hotel and through the River Corve valley. For the third option ten Ramblers joined Ken on a walk around Ludlow.

All the groups coped with the damp conditions; and on the longer walk the many stiles! Special mention to Andy who ended up rather wet and muddy after slipping whilst helping others.



A big thank you to Rosie and Tony for their organising of another successful Christmas coach walk and meal, and along with Ken for leading the walks.

Walk Programme 2026

The Walk Programme for 2026 is open and it is time to start planning walks for next year for Sundays and Thursdays. Check the email circulated on December 10th on behalf of Andy Addison (the Sunday Walks Coordinator). Details of the future walks currently planned can be found on the website suttoncoldfieldramblers.org.uk This shows confirmed walks plus provisional dates where walks are proposed but the recce has not yet been undertaken.

Walk Leaders

The group depends on offers from members to lead walks. Training and support is available for new walk leaders; and fellow members are available to help with planning and checking out routes. All types of walks from short to long walks, urban to rural, close to home or further afield are welcomed. There is no expectation for walk leaders to regularly put on walks, occasional walks are fine and appreciated.

To schedule a walk and for support with with planning a potential walk, contact the relevant Walks Coordinators;

Sunday Walks - Andy Addison andyaddison11@hotmail.com 07565153649

Thursday Walks - Ynyr Owen ynyrown@hotmail.co.uk 07814863074

Coach Walks 2026

Details for 2026 coach walks are;

The spring coach walk is planned for Sunday March 29th in the Church Stretton area.

The summer coach walk will be in July (date to be confirmed) and will be in the Welshpool area with the option of a visit to NT Powys Castle.

The Christmas coach walk and meal is scheduled for December 6th.

Car sharing to walks

Ramblers are encouraged where possible to car share to the walk start. Please text the walk leader if you plan to go directly there.

Checking for Walk Updates

Occasionally changes to walks have to be made at short notice, particularly in the case of weather conditions. Decisions may need to be taken at short notice, and it may not always be possible for Rob to send out an email informing members in time. Therefore please regularly check both the website and your mailbox.

Check the Weather Outlook

bbc.co.uk/weather/outlook

Ramblers '90 years of rambling'

This year marks a double milestone in the history of outdoor access in England and Wales - it is 25 years since the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act) was enacted on 30 November 2000, and 20 years since the public gained access rights under the Act. Before the Act, access other than on public rights of way was limited and often contested. The CROW Act changed that by giving the public a legal right of access to designated areas of land for open-air recreation. It was the result of decades of campaigning, starting with the mass trespass at Kinder Scout in 1932, by people who believed that the countryside should be shared by all.

The Ramblers, as a charity dedicated to removing barriers so everyone can enjoy walking in green spaces, were key campaigners in securing the principle of the freedom to roam. As their 90th anniversary year draws to a close, the organisation continues to campaign for legislation to help remove barriers so everyone can enjoy walking in green spaces, alongside an accessible and well-maintained path network.

“There are opportunities to bring the joy and benefits of exploring off-path to more people and places. We want the freedom to roam to be more equal, cover more landscapes and be more connected and accessible”

ramblers.org.uk/what-we-care-about/freedom-to-roam

walk.ramblers.org.uk/90-years-of-the-ramblers/



Members' News

New Members: A warm welcome to our new members; Arne Leisegang, Caroline Marshall, Rachel Redmond and Deborah Short.

Sarah Peyton: Best wishes from SCR members to Sarah who is leaving Sutton Coldfield and relocating with her family to Cornwall.

SCR Weekend Away September 25th: A three night weekend break to the HF House at Dolgellau is being arranged by Rosie - for details see email circulated November 24th. There are still some remaining spaces available including limited single rooms.

What Can Be Seen from the Wrekin?

At 1,334 feet/407m, the Wrekin is a hill rich in geology, history, and folklore, offering a magnificent panorama. Many guidebooks and magazine articles dating back to the 1860s have claimed that Snowdon and seventeen counties are visible from its summit.

As many walkers will know, at the summit there is a toposcope—a circular indicator that points to notable landmarks on the horizon—installed in 1977 by the Wellington Rotary Club to mark the Silver Jubilee. One particular inscription on this disc has served as an object of local pride, a long-distance marker of geographical bragging rights: SNOWDON 71m. In his exhaustively researched paper (www.viewfinderpanoramas.org/Snowdon-Wrekin.pdf) the late David Squires has thoroughly debunked both of these geographical myths.

The idea that Snowdon can be seen from the Wrekin was given huge publicity when, in 1869, Wellington-born Hesba Stretton (the JK Rowling of her day) placed the claim in her novel *Alone in London*, writing: "...what would I give to be a-top of the Wrekin.... [when] I saw Snowdon once, more than sixty miles off, when my eyes were young and it was a clear sunset."

The fatal blow came in 1995 when Jonathan de Ferranti launched his Viewfinder Panoramas website (www.viewfinderpanoramas.org) These computer-generated images indicate the principal features to be seen from a hill in conditions of normal refraction. The image for the Wrekin, shows the line of sight (294°) to Snowdon is blocked by Cadair Berwyn, 38 miles away.

An early reference to seventeen counties being visible from the Wrekin is in a guidebook to the Great Western Railway published in 1860. However, the Visibility Cloak tool from the website www.heywhatsthat.com which enables a map to be drawn of all the visible terrain from a user-specified point, shows that from the Wrekin there are twenty, not seventeen.

Shropshire-Caer Caradoc 12 mi, **Cheshire**-Bickerton Hill 29 mi, **Denbighshire**-Llantysilio Mountain 37 mi, **Montgomery**-Glan Hafon 36 mi, **Flint**-Hope Mountain 37 mi, **Radnor**-Radnor Forest 39 mi, **Worcestershire**-Worcestershire Beacon 40 mi, **Staffordshire**-The Roaches 42 mi, **Herefordshire**-Herefordshire Beacon 43 mi, **Derbyshire**-Alport Height 50 mi, **Leicestershire**-Bardon Hill 52 mi, **Warwickshire**-Ebrington Hill 53 mi, **Cardigan**-Plynlimon 54 mi, **Gloucestershire**-Cleeve Hill 56 mi, **Merionethshire**-Cadair Idris 57 mi, **Monmouthshire**-Ysgyryd Fawr 59 mi, **Oxfordshire**-Chastleton Hill 63 mi, **Brecon**-Pen Y Fan 66 mi, **Lancashire**-Winter Hill 66 mi, **Yorkshire**-Blake Moor 73 mi.

The tale of the 'view' of Snowdon, and of the 'seventeen counties', is a cautionary one. Topographic tidbits such as these, which turn out to be quite false, can persist for decades, taught in schoolrooms, printed in guidebooks, engraved on toposcopes. So, when you encounter a surprising visibility claim in a guidebook, or on a toposcope, I would advise you to take it with a pinch of salt.

Tom Halstead October 2025

The Wrekin, part of the Shropshire Hills AONB, is well worth visiting for the outstanding views and to check out the toposcope. At the summit, as well as the toposcope, there is the trig point (with a base of stoneware clay tiles created for the Platinum Jubilee) and a transmitting station (installed as part of a project to celebrate the Millennium) known locally as the Wrekin Beacon due to the red pulse of light emitted every few seconds at night.



Dates for the Diary 2026

SCR Meal February 11th 2026: A meal has been arranged at the Da Vinci Restaurant in Aldridge - further details will be emailed in January.

Warwickshire Area Ramblers AGM February 28th: This will be hosted by Solihull Ramblers and held in Hampton in Arden at Fentham Hall with a 10.30am start. As usual the day will include guest speakers, lunch and choice of two walks. Details within the Warwickshire Ramblers Annual Report [documents/warwickshire-area-information](#)

Coach Walks 2026: The Spring coach walk is scheduled for March 29th, there will be a Summer coach walk in July (date to be confirmed) and the Christmas coach walk and meal is planned for December 6th.

Thank you to all who contributed to all the newsletter this year. Contributions are invited for the next Newsletter, please send these to [suttoncoldfieldramblers-sharon-freedman](#) by January 30th.

Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes for 2026

hf holidays

WALK YOUR WAY

WALKING & SPECIAL INTEREST HOLIDAYS
UK, EUROPE & WORLDWIDE 2023

The world is just a step away.

Where will you ramble next?

Whether you enjoy classic trails or a more relaxed tempo, our new Collections make it easier than ever to choose from a range of fantastic walking holidays perfectly suited to your tastes and preferences.

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