



**Sutton
Coldfield**

May/June 2025 Newsletter



Kingsbury Water Park

New life takes to water
Before the parents' gaze
Cygnets and downy goslings
Glide through the summer haze.

Peter Gibb from Paths and Poetry

Chairperson's Report

Continued warm, dry weather has provided ideal conditions for a full programme of walks throughout spring and into the summer season. We have, also, on several Sundays had two walk leaders, thus offering a choice of long and short walks. Ironbridge was one of these, with Andy and Mike leading us through a fascinating area of industrial heritage. Jenny and Chris led walks through lovely countryside from Earlswood Lakes and Kingsbury Water Park, with Sharon leading a longer walk incorporating Lapworth Locks and the Tapster Valley. We ventured into Leicestershire for Barbara and John's walk from Woodhouse Eaves through the delightful Bradgate Park with wonderful views of Charnwood Forest. In Staffordshire, we visited Ellastone, led by Rosie and Tony and a Thursday walk from Wigginton, led by Ynyr. A damp start to the latter soon improved with refreshments in the sunny garden of the Old Crown at the end of the walk. On another Sunday with two walks, saw Ken leading in the Clent Hills with fine views, and Sarah taking us through the Trent Valley to Yoxall. Thanks to both for putting on those replacement walks at short notice. Shorter Thursday walks in May were led by Barbara and John, using the permissive paths around the landscaped Amazon complex linking Minworth with Walmley. On the canal, a local expert pointed out a shoal of prized (by anglers) ghost carp. On their walk on Pelsall Common, the drainage work and improved paths were much appreciated. Our annual walks from Temple Balsall, led by Mike and Barbara N, ended with the customary afternoon tea at the Old Hall, enjoyed by all. Returning to Warwickshire, Ynyr's walk from Middleton included a lunch stop at Berkswell village green where Jo and Dave R tried out the Grade II-listed stocks. Unfortunately, the weather broke for Sarah's walk from Barton Marina, but a soaking didn't detract from an enjoyable walk. Warm weather returned for our last walk of June, from Hartshill Hayes Country Park led by Barbara and John.

Marcia and John's Wednesday evening pub walks commenced on a beautiful evening in Curdworth with a spectacular sunset, captured by Anita M, and a walk from the Longhorn in Walsall where the Arboretum was at its best. Thank you, as always, to our walk leaders without whom there would be no Ramblers. Please see separate notice from Andy about the walks programme.

Coach Walk Our summer coach walk is to Llangollen on 27th July, led by Rosie and Tony; full details are on the website. There are several options for guided and self-guided walks as well as suggested activities for non-walkers. Please text Tony Power on 07759 300856 to reserve your place. Coach fare is £10, payable in cash on the day. Coach departs from Wyndley at 08:30. It promises to be a fantastic day out in a superb location.

Walk Leader Training Ramblers have recently announced a new approach to recognising walk leader experience in order to demonstrate that their skills and

competence are up-to- date. They believe this would protect walk leaders and the Ramblers. There are different options available to meet the required threshold. We have until the end of the year to put this in place. Ramblers will be contacting all walk leaders who haven't completed the online training modules with further information. There will be plenty of support from Ramblers and from our own group.

Footpath Working Party We have had two effective sessions clearing paths around Shenstone. The next working party is on Thursday 17th July. More volunteers would be most welcome to join us – think of the benefits of fresh air and exercise, not forgetting good company and possibly a drink afterwards! Contact Barbara if you would like to be involved.

ICE cards New cards have been distributed on walks. See Barbara or Rosie if you haven't collected yours yet.

Here's hoping that the fine weather continues so that we can look forward to an excellent summer season of walking.

With best wishes to all,

Barbara



Our **Footpath Working Party** volunteers enjoying path clearance in the sunshine - if you would like to get involved contact Barbara through the SCR website or using this link suttoncoldfieldramblers-barbara-twort

Walk Programme 2025

Our recent walks with a mix of local and further afield destinations, and a number of Sundays with two walks offering shorter and longer options.



Two walks taking in picturesque Ironbridge with the historic landscape of the Ironbridge Gorge UNESCO World Heritage Site.



A varied walk from Earlswood Lakes.



Local Thursday walks, Pelsall North Common and Minworth.



Two Sunday walks, Lapworth Locks and the Birmingham Stratford Canal, and a shorter walk at Kingsbury Water Park.



Bradgate Park in Leicestershire with its Deer Park and and Old John Tower.



A choice of walks, views from the Clent Hills, and closer to home the Trent Valley from Alrewas.



Two walks at Temple Balsall with the groups meeting at the Old Hall for tea and cakes.



Further afield at Ellastone in the Peak District.



From Wigginton following the River Anker.



The Meriden circular with a lunch stop in Berkswell - with an opportunity for walkers to try out the stocks.



Good weather for our evening pub walks.



Hartshill Hayes - a varied walk with open views, woodland and canal - finishing with refreshments.

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 Sunday or Thursday walks. You can see details of the walks, photos and the route maps if the GPX data was recorded.

Details of future walks 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

A thank you as always from the Walk Coordinators to our Walk Leaders; it has been great to have had a broad mix of walks in the Programme, including some Sundays with two lengths of walks available. We now look forward to the second half of the year and continuing to offer a mix of walks. At the time of writing, we are looking for Sunday walk leaders on the following dates;

Sunday 13th July - short or long
Sunday 20th July - short or long
Sunday 3rd August - long
Sunday 10th August - short
Sunday 17th August - short or long
Sunday 24th August - short
Sunday 31st August - short or long

If you would like to offer a walk please get in contact with our Walk Coordinators;
Sunday Walks - Andy Addison andyaddison11@hotmail.com 07565153649
Thursday Walks - Julie Hamblen hamblen74@gmail.com 07817151165

Online training provided by the Ramblers is available to all new and existing walk leaders - this consists of a series of videos with a lot of useful and practical tips. Support is also available from our Walk Coordinators and fellow SCR members - this includes finding a route, doing a recce and organisation on the day. If you are interested in accessing the online training get in touch with Andy.

Andy Addison

Evening Pub Walks

There are two remaining summer evening Pub Walks - from the Holly Bush at Little Hay on July 9th and from the Green Man in Middleton on August 13th. The walks led by John and Marcia are around 4 miles and will start at 7.00pm returning to the pub by 9.00pm. Please meet in the car park of the pub at 6.45pm. Full details of the walks can be found on the website.

Summer Coach Walk

Our next coach walk will be Sunday 27th July to Llangollen, with walks led by Rosie and Tony. The longer option of 10 miles is a linear walk starting from Carrog and finishing in Llangollen. The shorter walk of 6.5 miles is a circular route from Llangollen - where both groups should be able to enjoy post walk refreshments. People who do not want to join the led walks could self guide their own shorter walks or explore Llangollen. Full details are on the website. Please text Tony Power on 07759 300856 to reserve your place - the coach fare is £10, payable in cash on the day.

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.

Check the Weather Outlook

bbc.co.uk/weather/outlook

SCR Website Updates

Rob and Tom continue to add to the SCR website - new items are highlighted on the Home Page under ***In Brief....***

There have been a couple of recent additions to help with planning walks. These can be found under the tab ***Walks and Walking***.



Sutton Coldfield Ramblers

Home Walks and Walking Documents FAQs Contacts Social Activities Search

Starting Points and Routes for Past Walks

The routes for over 80 of SCR's past walks (dating back to 2018) are now available on the website, including starting points and downloadable route maps. These can be selected from an interactive map or by list.

This complements the existing chronological record of walks that includes GPX route maps and photos. Maintaining walk records is dependent on members sending walk information through to Rob or Tom.

Mapping Tools

There are a number of links to sites that Tom uses which can help with plotting routes.

These include the ***Ramblers Library of Walking***

Routes - this has a search facility for walks by location.

To access detailed walk descriptions you will need to log-in to your Ramblers account. The Library can also be accessed via the Ramblers App - through the App routes can be downloaded onto a mobile device and followed whilst off-line.

Rights of Way Maps

Links are provided to the websites of Leicestershire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire County Councils, and their maps showing public rights of way.

Walks and Walking

Records: Photos, Routes, Maps

Information for Walkers and Walk Leaders

Car Park and Car Sharing

Walk Grades

Our Current Walks Programme

Proposed, but not yet recced Walks

Mapping Tools

Rights of Way Maps for the counties bordering Birmingham

Display routes of walks done: select list or map

Ramblers '90 years of rambling'

Whilst the Ramblers are celebrating '90 years of rambling' a notable feature of many walks and walkers' photos will be turning 90 next year - the Ordnance Survey **trig pillar**. These small white monoliths are uniquely British - but what is their purpose?

Back in 1936 Brigadier Martin Hotine set about the design, planning and implementation of the re-triangulation of Britain. Some 6,500 trig pillars were installed across the country at specific points with recorded coordinates and point of elevation i.e. their height. OS Surveying teams spent 26 years gathering measurements across Britain to create a highly accurate map of the country.

The trig pillars, made of cast concrete or cemented stone, were designed to provide a solid base for the theodolites used for taking measurements. They were typically four foot tall with a large part of the pillar buried below the surface. Though the OS no longer uses the trig pillars (their purpose has been replaced by new technologies providing even greater accuracy) about 6,000 remain, and maintaining them is still their responsibility.

Trig pillars are shown on OS Explorer maps as a small blue triangle with a dot in the middle. Many trig pillars (but not all) are located on hilltops for better visibility. The highest trig pillar in the UK is unsurprisingly on Ben Nevis, and the lowest at Great Ouse in Cambridgeshire.

The highest trig pillar in the Midlands, at 425 meters, is at the Worcestershire Beacon - the highest point on the Malverns, and on one of my favourite walks. Whilst not the most picturesque trig (the nearby toposcope is more photogenic) it is a welcomed sight as you know you have completed the most strenuous section of your walk!

Sharon Freedman



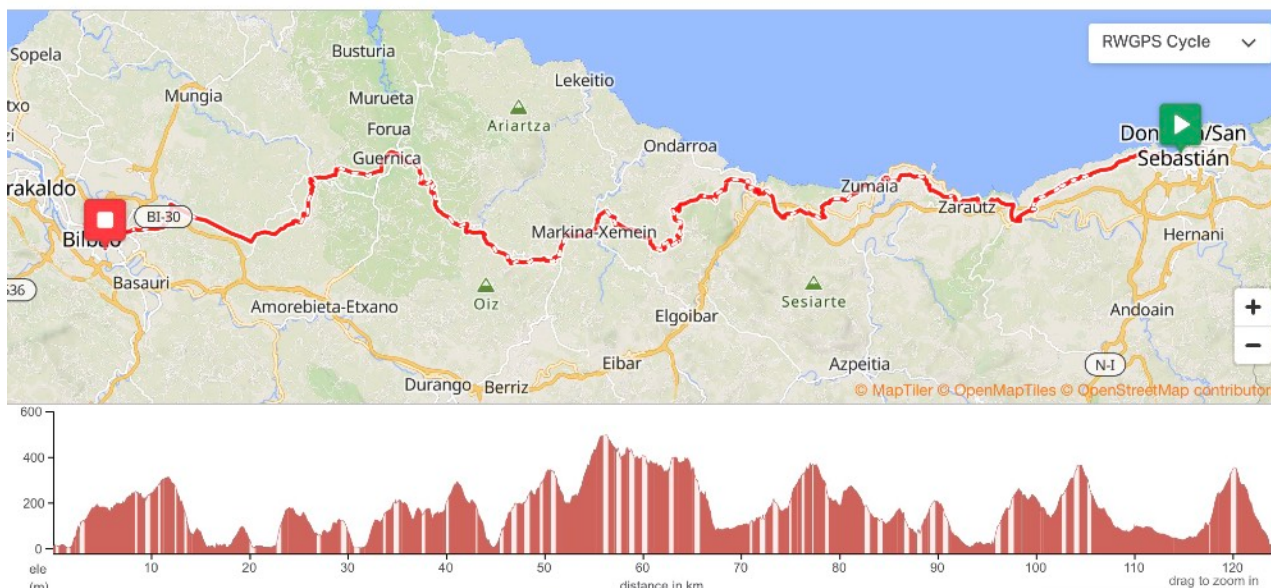
SCR Members' Walking Travels

Six Days Walking on the Camino Norte - San Sebastián to Bilbao

“Ultreia! et Suseia” is an old Camino greeting - it translates as “onwards and upwards” - it was certainly very apt for our six days of walking on the Camino Norte, both in terms of distance and hills!

Northern Way: Section 1 - San Sebastian to Bilbao

View Full Version Send to Device 123.9 km +3,507 m / -3,500 m



After a day exploring San Sebastián our group of five set off on our route along the coast walking to Getaria, a delightful small port. Our second day was particularly hot as we continued along the coast to the seaside town of Deba. From here we turned inland to Markina-Xemein - probably the hardest day of walking - reaching our highest elevation in the rain. Our next day, again with a lot of hills, took us to the busy town of Gernika. From here the terrain became easier and the sunshine returned as we walked to Lezama. Our final section to Bilbao was straightforward walking - on arrival we headed to the Cathedral (where we collected our Pilgrim Passport stamp) and then enjoyed a lovely late lunch in a traditional Basque restaurant with celebratory wine.





We enjoyed the most wonderful scenery, excellent food and drink, the hospitality of small private hotels and albergues, and the camaraderie of fellow walkers. I hope to return to the Camino Norte and walk the next stage to Santander.

Sharon Freedman - Buen Camino

St Oswald's Way 2025 May 2nd to the 9th

Psalm 84v 5

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage

St Oswald (605 to 642) was a Northumbrian king who became a Christian in Iona. After a significant battle at Heavenfield, Oswald became king of Northumbria. He sent for Christian missionaries from Iona. Aidan came over from Iona and settled in Lindisfarne. Hence St Oswald's Way starts in Lindisfarne and finishes at Heavenfield. We started at Lindisfarne and finished at Warkworth, which meant we were walking along coastal paths most of the way.

There was a group of 15 of us staying at North Farm Cottages at Embleton. The cottages were wonderful and I had an amazing view of the sea from my bedroom. Five of us completed the whole walk, with the rest dipping in and out. On some days we were able to use the excellent local bus service to get to the start or from the finish of the walk, otherwise we used cars.



Our start on the Pilgrim trail was a unique experience; we walked in bare feet on the causeway from Lindisfarne to the mainland. The photo is of me on the last day walking along the final section of beach. We were blessed with wonderful weather and amazing scenery. It has been special for me to be able to complete a long distance footpath as well as there being a pilgrimage element.

Hopefully I will be able to do the rest of St Oswald's Way next year. Last year I went with the same group, who are from a Church in Nottingham, and we walked The Way of Light - one of the Northern Saints Trails.

Jeanie Shackelford

SC Ramblers on the Camino Francigena

Congratulations to our recently returned six Sutton Coldfield Ramblers; Christina, June, Tom, Mike, Rob and John on walking the Camino Francigena from Siena to Rome over 14 days.

They will be sharing some of their adventures in the next Newsletter.

Buon Cammino



In Memoriam Trevor Davies

We were saddened to hear that former member, Trevor Davies, died last month following illness. Before he moved to Worcester, Trevor led many walks for SCR and often supported members on recces. He particularly enjoyed walking in the Bewdley area.

New Members

A warm welcome to our new members; Richard Carra, Joseph Duane, Margaret Duane, Anne Eades, Lorraine Moore and Keith Smith.

Dates for the Diary 2025

Next Coach Walk - Sunday July 27th to Llangollen with a choice of two led walks plus options for shorter self-guided walks. To book a place on the coach text Tony Power on 07759300856. Coach fare is £10 payable in cash on the day.

Autumn Holiday - September 28th to October 1st at the Mumbles Swansea arranged by John Harden. Check the website for latest update on spaces.

Christmas Walk and Meal - Sunday December 7th at Fishmore Hall near Ludlow.

Thank you to all who contributed to the newsletter. Contributions are invited for the next Newsletter, please send these to suttoncoldfieldramblers-sharon-freedman by August 18th.

hf holidays

WALK YOUR WAY

WALKING & SPECIAL INTEREST HOLIDAYS
UK, EUROPE & WORLDWIDE 2023

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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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