

Sadly, we have learned of the passing of Roger Roberts. He died in Colchester Hospital on 30th December after a very short illness. He was 85. His son Gavin was with him. They had enjoyed a great Christmas together. Gavin will be sending Alison details of the funeral.

Although Roger was a member of Colchester Ramblers, many members will remember one or more of the 130 walks he led for Maldon and Dengie Ramblers. He last led a walk for us in 2017.

His walks were always full of facts from flora and fauna to geology and history. As walking became difficult, he made a couple of guest appearances for the TA walkers at St Stephen's Chapel in Bures.

Thank you Roger.

'Although Roger was a member of Colchester Ramblers, he walked regularly with us and supplied us with endless maps of walks, details of which were included on an earlier website of ours. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of walks in and around Colchester, Chelmsford and Maldon and often supplied members, who were keen to lead but did not know where to go, with a walk.

He suffered from Type 2 Diabetes and walked regularly on his own for exercise and hence, his supply of walks. He was an accomplished musician and a very able pianist.

He gained a certain notoriety over lunch one day at the White Hart, near Stock. The waitress was calling out names rather than meals and said, much to the delight of all present, "When I come back I will need a Roger."

Roger was one of my two companions in the photograph presented to me to mark my two hundredth lead.'

Jim

'Sad news indeed and somewhat of a surprise as I understand from other walk colleagues Roger was managing to participate in short walks quite recently.

Roger was one of the main leaders of the Maldon & Dengie walking group for a number of years, in fact one of the few leaders who had completed over two hundred walks. And I believe he did a similar number of leads for both Colchester and the Chelmer & Blackwater groups. We as a group were fortunate in many ways to have known Roger as a colleague. We learned from his local knowledge of history, as often Roger would pause on a walk to explain various features of the landscape and its relevant historical significance. In addition, we are indebted to Roger in benefiting from his mapping expertise, as he generously provided

our group with over a hundred maps of his walks, each one dementedly notated with interesting features.

Apart from all this knowledge, occasionally we were treated to other skills of this talented man. On occasions, if we were stopping by a church for a break and that church happened to have a piano, then Roger would be in his element by playing some melodies to entertain us for a few minutes. I remember on one occasion, when not recognising a particular tune, I enquired as to its name and Roger replied that it was one of his own compositions.

Indeed a man of many talents and one who will be sadly missed by all of us who have an appreciation of walking in the countryside.

A small appreciation of our debt to Roger. Maybe Jim has similar memories that he can recall'

John