

Welcome to the



Ramblers Retreat

*Dimmingsdale, Alton, Staffordshire Moorlands. ST10 4BU
(Established 1981)*

Nestled in the beautiful Churnet Valley, The Ramblers Retreat is a family-run Country Tearoom and daytime restaurant.

Since 1981, our family has offered a range of high quality, traditional home-made meals.

Almost all of our menu is homemade with meals freshly prepared and cooked in our kitchen. We pride ourselves on using only the best ingredients - the majority sourced from local suppliers within the Staffordshire, Derbyshire and Cheshire.

Whether you choose to eat in our cosy snug, airy conservatory or our beautiful woodland gardens, we guarantee you'll find the atmosphere extremely homely, warm and welcoming.

And as well as enjoying a delicious meal, you can also take in the beauty and tranquillity of Dimmingsdale by strolling through the valley using one of the established woodland walks.

We hope you enjoy your visit to the Ramblers Retreat and Dimmingsdale and we look forward to welcoming you again in the near future.

Menu

Open Every Day

Apart from 22nd to 25th December inclusive for a festive break.

RESERVATIONS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

How to Order

Full waitress service is provided in the snug & conservatory. Simply take a seat and one of our team will look after you.

If sitting in the garden or summer houses, simply place your order & pay at the ice cream window. We will give you your drinks immediately and provide you with a "bleeper" that will buzz to tell you when your food is ready for collection.

Please remember, all food is freshly prepared therefore please allow time for preparation. We will endeavour to deliver your meal as soon as practicably possible; however there may be a delay during busy times.

As a family run business we are incredibly proud of our restaurant and work incredibly hard to consistently provide high standards of food and service. Our aim is to ensure you leave the Ramblers Retreat feeling thoroughly delighted with your dining experience and pass your experience on to your family and friends. Therefore, if you have any questions, queries or concerns during your visit, please bring it to the attention of a member of staff immediately & we will do our utmost to satisfy your requirements or rectify any problems straight away so you can continue to enjoy your visit.

Thank you

Prices include VAT at the current rate of 20%. For your convenience, bills are itemised and produced per table when dining inside or per order if dining outside.

Breakfast Available until 11.30am

Staffordshire Breakfast	£7.15
<i>An excellent way to start the day! A full plate of bacon, sausage, fried egg, mushrooms, beans, grilled tomato & Staffordshire Oatcake, served with either brown or white toast <u>plus</u> a pot of tea or cup of coffee.</i>	
Bacon Sandwich	£4.15
Bacon & Egg Sandwich	£4.65
Sausage Sandwich	£4.15
Toast (White or Wholemeal)	£0.65

Starters Available until ½ hour before closing

Home-made Soup of the Day	£3.95
<i>Served with farmhouse bread and butter</i>	
Garlic Bread with Melted Cheese	£4.65
<i>3 slices of hot garlic bread and melted mature cheddar accompanied by a crispy salad garnish</i>	
Loaded Potato Skins	£4.80
<i>Crispy potato skins filled with melted mature cheddar cheese & bacon pieces served with a salad garnish</i>	
Smoked Mackerel	£4.95
<i>A smoked mackerel fillet served hot, accompanied by wholemeal bread & butter and crispy salad garnish</i>	

Main Meals

Available until 1 hour before closing

Roast of the Day

£8.15

Served with new potatoes, roast potato, seasonal vegetables, gravy and all the trimmings.

The meat for our Roast dinners is brought from a local butcher in Alfreton, Derbyshire and is sourced from farms within Derbyshire & Staffordshire.

(Gluten free gravy is available for those on a Gluten Free Diet, please ask your waitress). ☺

Home-made Pie of the Day

£8.15

Served with chips or new potatoes and seasonal vegetables. Please see Chalk Board for today's choice.

Lamb Shank in a Mint Gravy

£9.25

A succulent lamb shank slowed braised in a rich Mint Gravy. Served with new potatoes, roast potato and seasonal vegetables.

Salmon Fillet

£9.75

A poached butterfly fillet of Scottish Salmon smothered with Parsley Sauce. Served with new potatoes, roast potato & seasonal vegetables. ☺

Staffordshire Oatcake Pizza (V)

£7.15

A Staffordshire Oatcake topped with tomato, onions, herbs and smothered with mature cheddar cheese accompanied by a fresh crispy seasonal salad or chips and garnish.

Oatcakes are a specialty in North Staffordshire. This regional delicacy is quite simply a type of pancake made from Oatmeal, flour and yeast cooked on a griddle.

Omelette

£7.95

A large omelette (at least 4 egg!) served with fresh crispy seasonal salad or chips & garnish. Choice of fillings:

Cheese, Mushroom, Ham, Onion or Tomato (max. of two fillings). ☺

Specials of the Day

£8.15

Please see our Specials Board for today's specials.

Children's Menu

(for children 13 years and under)

Children's Roast of the Day

£4.95

Served with potatoes, roast potato, seasonal vegetables and gravy. See Chalk Board for today's choices. ☺

Spaghetti Bolognaise and Garlic Bread ☺

£4.95

Sausage, Chips and Beans or peas

£4.95

Egg, Chips and Beans or Peas

£4.25

Side Orders

(Only served as accompaniments to main meals or snacks)

Bowl of Home-made Chips (only available as an accompaniment to snack/meal)

£2.00

House Salad

£3.60

Bread and Butter / Toast

£0.65

Portion of Jam / Marmalade

£0.25

 **Lighter Bites** 
Available until ½ hour before closing

Open Sandwiches made from extra thick farmhouse bread

Accompanied by a crispy salad garnish and tortilla chips

<i>Locally Sourced Homecooked Beef & Onion</i>	<i>£5.10</i>
<i>Hand Carved Ham with Chutney</i>	<i>£4.99</i>
<i>Hot Bacon and Brie</i>	<i>£4.99</i>
<i>Hot Bacon, Lettuce & Tomato</i>	<i>£4.99</i>
<i>Tuna & Cucumber ☺</i>	<i>£4.90</i>
<i>Mature Cheddar Cheese with Chutney</i>	<i>£4.85</i>
<i>Mature Cheddar Cheese with Red Onion</i>	<i>£4.85</i>

Choice of wholegrain or white extra thick farmhouse bread.

Toasted Sandwiches

£4.95

Accompanied by a crispy salad garnish and tortilla chips

Choice of two of the following fillings:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| ✿ Mature Cheddar | ✿ Locally Sourced Handcarved Ham |
| ✿ Bacon | ✿ Red Onion |
| ✿ Tomato | ✿ Fruit Chutney |
| ✿ Baked Beans | ✿ Brie |
| ✿ Tuna | |

Jacket Potatoes

£5.10

Accompanied by a crispy salad garnish and tortilla chips

Choice of any two fillings:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ✿ Mature Cheddar | ✿ Locally Sourced Handcarved Ham |
| ✿ Bacon | ✿ Red Onion |
| ✿ Tomato | ✿ Fruit Chutney |
| ✿ Baked Beans | ✿ Tuna |
| ✿ Roasted Mediterranean Vegetables | |

Jacket Potatoes can be served with a large house salad at an extra cost of £1.00

Staffordshire Oatcakes - 2 Oatcakes served with Salad Garnish *£5.10*

Oatcakes are a specialty in North Staffordshire. This regional delicacy is quite simply a type of pancake made from Oatmeal, flour and yeast cooked on a griddle. A healthy yet tasty snack it can be filled with almost anything savoury or sweet!

Choice of any two fillings:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ✿ Mature Cheddar | ✿ Locally Sourced Handcarved Ham |
| ✿ Bacon | ✿ Red Onion |
| ✿ Tomato | ✿ Fruit Chutney |
| ✿ Baked Beans | ✿ Tuna |
| ✿ Roasted Mediterranean Vegetables | ✿ Mushrooms |

Oatcakes can be served with a large house salad at an extra cost of £1.00

Homemade Soup & Sandwich

£7.50

Homemade Soup served with a choice of any of the sandwiches listed above.

Homemade Desserts!

Available all day

£4.10 each

- ❖ **Lemon Meringue Pie**
We are famous for it!
- ❖ **Gateaux of the Day**
Please see our Specials Board for today's choices
- ❖ **Crumble of the Day**
Locally grown fruit, encased in shortcrust pastry topped with delicious sweet crumble and served piping hot. Please see our Specials Board for today's choice.
- ❖ **Fruit Pie of the Day**
Succulent fruit encased in shortcrust pastry and served hot. Please see our Specials Board for today's choice.
- ❖ **Bread and Butter Pudding**
Made to our own secret recipe
- ❖ **Dairy Ice Cream Sundae**
Made with delicious Carte D'Or Ice cream
Choice of Vanilla, Milk Chocolate, Strawberry, Mint Choc Chip or Caramel with real caramel pieces.
- ❖ **Specials of the Day**
Please see our Specials Board for today's dessert specials.
- ❖ **Gluten Free Desserts**
Please ask one of our staff for today's choices.

*All of our home-made desserts are served with a choice of **real double cream (whipped), vanilla ice cream or custard, except the Ice-Cream Sundae.***

Cakes, Scones & Teacakes

Available all day

Cream Tea for One	£4.45
<i>Pot of tea served with a fruit scone and generous helpings of butter, jam & real whipped double cream</i>	
Cream Tea for Two	£7.95
<i>Pot of tea for two served with two fruit scones and generous helpings of butter, jam & real whipped double cream</i>	
Fruit Scone and Butter	£1.80
Toasted Teacake and butter	£1.85
Cakes (various, please ask)	from £2.10

(V) Indicates the meal is suitable for vegetarians.  Indicates Healthy Option

Please note, some of our products may contain nuts or traces of nut and are made in a kitchen where nuts are handled. Great care is taken to remove all bones from fish and chicken dishes, however some may remain. If you have any food allergies and want to know more about the ingredients of our food, please ask a member of staff.

To the best of our knowledge, our food does not contain any GM products.

Hot Drinks

Teas:

Pot of English Tea (per person)	£1.70
Speciality Teas (per pot) <i>Choice of: Earl Grey; Darjeeling; Assam or Green Tea</i>	£1.85
Fruit and Herbal Teas (per pot) <i>Choice of: Peppermint, Lemon, Camomile and other various fruit flavoured teas (please ask)</i>	£1.85
Decaffeinated Tea (per pot)	£1.80

Coffees:

Filter Coffee served with either cream or milk	(per cup)	£1.70
	(per mug)	£1.95
Freshly Ground Coffee served with either cream or milk	(per cup)	£1.70
	(per mug)	£1.95
Cappuccino (per cup)		£2.05
Latte (per mug)		£2.05
Espresso (per shot)		£1.80
Milky Coffee (per mug) <i>A mug of freshly steamed milk mixed with a sweet, instant coffee</i>		£2.05
Decaffeinated Coffee (per cup)		£1.80
Liquor Coffees <i>(Range of liquors available, including, Whiskey; Brandy)</i>		£3.95

Other Hot Drinks:

Hot Chocolate (per mug) <i>Made with a Cadburys Hot Chocolate & hot steamed milk</i>	£2.05
Mocha (per mug) <i>Cadburys Hot Chocolate with a shot of espresso</i>	£2.75

Cold Non Alcoholic Drinks

Pure Orange Juice	£2.35
J20 : Orange & Passionfruit & Apple & Mango	£2.00
Citrus Presse: <i>Sparkling Mineral water flavoured with real fruit juices. Elderflower, Ginger & Lemon or Cranberry & Orange</i>	£2.10
Fentimans Old Fashioned Ginger Beer	£2.10
Fentimans Dandelion & Burdock	£2.10
Fentimans Seville Orange Jigger	£2.10
Minerals - Coke; Lemonade; Diet Coke; Orangeade	£1.45
Buxton Mineral Water (Sparkling or Still)	£1.45
Apple Juice or Pineapple Juice	£1.55
Milkshakes with ice cream <i>Choice of: Chocolate; strawberry or banana</i>	£2.50
Glass of Milk	£1.15
Orange or Blackcurrant Squash	£1.00
Tonic Water or Slimline Tonic	£1.55

Wine List & Alcoholic Drinks

Please note, as we offer a table licence we can only serve alcoholic drinks with a meal or snack.

Wine by the glass - choice of House Red, Dry White, Medium White or Rose:

- Standard (175 ml)	£3.55
- Small (125ml)	£3.10

White Wines (per bottle)

House White - Dry / Medium £10.95

Sauvignon Blanc £12.75

A full crisp, flavoursome Sauvignon Blanc with ripe, tropical tones tempered with a grassy, green pepper edge.

Chardonnay £12.95

Grapes from the Central Valley are used to produce this enchanting Chilean Chardonnay

Red Wines (per bottle)

House Red £10.95

Merlot £12.75

A silky, smooth fruity merlot from Chile with black fruit and soft toast flavours.

Shiraz £13.50

A smooth, medium bodied wine with fine integrated tannins that is suited to most cuisines.

Cabernet Sauvignon £12.75

A lovely, well balanced unoaked wine with cassis aromas.

Rose Wines (per bottle)

White Zinfandel £13.50

This Rose combines the zesty flavours of Strawberry, cranberry & watermelon from the zinfandel; melon & grassy tones from the chenin blanc & the tropical aromas from the muscat.

Alcoholic Beverages

We offer a range of bottled beers and lagers, the majority of which are brewed within Staffordshire, Derbyshire or Cheshire. Please ask for today's choices.

Local Beers	(500ml bottle)	£3.25
Shandy (lager or bitter)	½ pint	£1.80
	Pint	£3.00
Cider	275ml Bottle	£2.60
Sherry	50ml measure	£3.10
Spirits - Whiskey / Gin / Vodka / Brandy / Baileys	25ml measure	£3.35
Martini (Extra Dry / Rosso / Bianco)	50 ml measure	£3.10

Payment:

Payment may be made by cash, cheque with banker's card (made payable to M.A. Keeling) or Debit/Credit Card.

Did You Know.....

Below are a few facts about Dimmingsdale and the Ramblers Retreat that you may find interesting.

Dimmingsdale:

- ❖ In the 1800's, the Earl of Shrewsbury transformed Dimmingsdale from a scene of industrial iron and lead smelting squalor to a private country paradise.
- ❖ Dimmingsdale is an enchanting and extremely beautiful place anytime of the year. The woodland is a mixture of broad leaf trees & spectacular Scots pines, providing a haven for wildlife - foxes, badgers, woodpeckers to name but a few. In addition, the valley has an abundance of beautiful & interesting flora & has been designated a site of scientific special interest.
- ❖ We know that Dimmingsdale is one of the most beautiful places in the Staffordshire Moorlands, however its beauty has also been recognised nationwide. It was featured in the Sunday Times as one of the best Winter Walks in the UK and Midlands Television recognised it as one of the most beautiful places to visit in autumn due to the spectacular autumnal colours.
- ❖ The Legend of the Chained Oak - within the valley is an old Oak tree smothered with chains. Legend has it that in the 1830's a beggar woman put a curse on the Earl of Shrewsbury - for every branch that fell off this Oak tree a member of his family would die. A branch did fall off the tree & a member of his family did die, so immediately the Earl had chains wrapped around it to stop any more branches falling off.

The Ramblers Retreat

- ❖ The Ramblers Retreat (formerly Dimmingsdale Lodge) was a Gatehouse within the Earl of Shrewsbury's estate strategically placed alongside Earls Drive - the main thoroughfare through the estate.
- ❖ In the 1900's the Earl's estate was divided into lots and sold. Dimmingsdale Lodge was purchased and used solely for residential purposes until the 1960's, after which it was left vacant and fell into disrepair. In 1978, the Lodge had a dereliction order placed on it, however Gary and Margaret Keeling decided to buy it and restore it back to its natural beauty.
- ❖ After much hard work, Gary and Margaret moved into the Lodge in 1980 and made it their home. However whilst gardening, walkers frequently commented that it would be lovely to have a cup of tea after a walk. So in 1981, Margaret opened up her lounge to serve tea and scones and so the Ramblers Retreat was born!
- ❖ The Ramblers Retreat is a family run business. Gary and Margaret Keeling opened the business in 1981 and Helen, their daughter joined them in 2002.
- ❖ Our menu is almost entirely home-made, with all meals freshly prepared & cooked in our kitchen.
- ❖ Whenever possible, we buy our ingredients from local suppliers. This allows us to support our local community, reduce our environmental impact and ensure the quality of our ingredients are consistently high -
 - Milk, eggs & cream are supplied by our local dairy; Wheat Brothers from Bradley, Cheadle;
 - Our vegetables and fruit comes from a supplier in Congleton who sources it from local farms whenever possible;
 - Our potatoes come from Colliers Farms whose crops are grown in Staffordshire and Cheshire;
 - Our meat is supplied by Price & Fretwell Butchers in Derbyshire who source all meat from Local Farms;
 - The cheese for our Platters is from the Staffordshire Cheese Company, near Leek.
 - Our damsons are supplied from a farm in Hollington & Alton and we hand pick other fruits from local fruit farms when in season;
 - We sell Buxton Mineral Water ;
 - We offer a range of local beers brewed in Staffordshire & Derbyshire (used in our Steak Pie!);
 - We grow our own salad items & even our customers supply us with organically grown fruit!
- ❖ We work extremely closely with Forestry Commission and local conservation groups to ensure Dimmingsdale maintains its beauty and tranquillity. The majority of the areas Staffordshire Wildlife Meetings are held at the Ramblers Retreat - details of meetings can be found on our notice board.
- ❖ We've won many awards over the years - The Taste of Staffordshire Awards - Tearoom of the Year 2007, NFU Best use of Local Produce Award; Heartbeat Awards for healthy food and we were nominated as one of the Best Tea Rooms in the Midlands through Midlands Today.