

# **EAST CHESHIRE RAMBLERS**

AGM SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2014

**PAPERS FOR THE AGM**

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**RAMBLERS' EAST CHESHIRE GROUP**  
**2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2014**  
**To be held at Macclesfield Tennis Club, Learning Zone Campus,**  
**Park Lane, Macclesfield, SK11 8LF**

**Agenda for the day**

**10.00 a.m.** Short walk starts at Macclesfield Tennis Club  
Bring packed lunch. Walk Leader: Jane Gay

**1.00 p.m.** Walkers and members meet at the Tennis Club  
**Bring and Buy Clothes Sale**

**2.00 p.m.** AGM

1. Apologies for absence
  2. Minutes of the AGM held 9<sup>th</sup> November 2013
  3. Matters arising from the minutes
  4. Annual Reports from officers  
Chairman  
Treasurer  
Membership Secretary  
Footpath Report  
Footpath Maintenance  
September 2014 Walk Survey
  5. Election of Officers and Committee  
Chairman  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Membership Secretary  
Social Secretary  
Footpaths Secretary  
Committee Members
  6. Motions Received
  7. Appointment of Auditor
  8. Any other business
- 3.00 p.m. close of meeting**

**David Bates - Secretary**

**RAMBLERS EAST CHESHIRE GROUP**  
**Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2013  
at Macclesfield Tennis Club

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	<b>26 members went on the morning walk.</b> <b>38 members attended the meeting.</b>	
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies for absence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apologies received from Ann Thompson; Roger Fielding; Keith Bridgett; Graham Walker; Nora Shercliff; John Edwards</li> </ul>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of the AGM held 10<sup>th</sup> November 2012</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acceptance of the minutes as a true and fair record.  <b>Proposed by</b> Jane Gay  <b>Seconded by</b> Roger Norton</li> </ul>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Matters Arising from the AGM 10<sup>th</sup> November 2012</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership decline has been addressed, and the decline has slowed. Thanks to Roger Norton for being instrumental in using local press to promote our group, with the positive result that we have attracted some new members.</li> </ul>	
<b>3.2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over the last two years our cash reserves have been reduced to fund footpath projects.</li> </ul>	
<b>3.3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footpath Secretary position remains vacant; this has been covered by the Committee rotating the chair/secretary duties.</li> </ul>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Annual Reports</b>	
<b>4.1.</b>	<b>Chairman</b>	
<b>h</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• - This is our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year, and it was marked in June with the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Walk, at which 84 walkers took part.</li> <li>- The dinner held at the Deanwater Hotel, with guest speaker Peter Slack was a great success.</li> </ul>	
<b>4.1.2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The permissive path was completed and opened. Thanks to Alan Catherall and John Goodman for their determination and hard work in achieving the completion of this project.</li> </ul>	
<b>4.1.3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanks to the many people who contribute to the running of our group, and make it a successful walking group. Also, thanks to the retiring committee members of Ken Hobbs, Brian Griffiths, and Alan Catherall.</li> </ul>	
<b>4.1.4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our publicity in the local press, including Cheshire Life has helped greatly to attract new members, thanks go to Roger Norton.</li> </ul>	
<b>4.1.5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To complete our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year, the Chairman is organising a Walk 40, which is 40 miles walking over 4 walks. More details to follow.</li> </ul>	<b>DG</b>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	
<b>4.2.1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Office continues to encourage Groups to make operational savings wherever possible, and to take steps to use their reserves in future. We have continued to control costs, and used some reserves in a major footpath project, namely the Charles Head permissive path.</li> </ul>	
<b>4.2.2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Office funding for this year was above the 2011/2012 year.</li> </ul>	
<b>4.2.3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social events created a surplus and this includes commission received from Ramblers Worldwide Holidays.</li> </ul>	
<b>4.2.4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Printing and postage costs declined, prime impact to the costs is the use of email communication with members.</li> </ul>	
<b>4.2.5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Budget 2013/2014</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Budget has not yet been approved, but by implication, we have received the 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr. fund.</li> <li>○ Funds for footpath projects are available.</li> <li>○ Anticipate a grant will be forthcoming for tools, etc., for the maintenance working parties.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

### 4.3 Membership Secretary

- 4.3.1 • Unfortunately membership has continued to decline from 662 to 629. However, the last 3 months have seen a net increase of 9.
- 4.3.2 • The national picture shows a similar situation of an overall decline in membership.
- 4.3.3 • The survey of walkers undertaken for the month of September showed the following:
  - Number of walks in the survey was 31 out of a possible 33 walks, an excellent response by walk leaders.
  - There were 192 individuals walking, which resulted in 407 walkers recorded on the walks.
  - Of the 192, it is estimated that some 85% are members of Ramblers.

### 4.4 Footpath Secretary

- 4.4.1 • With no Footpath Secretary, the Committee organise the chair/secretary responsibilities on a rotating basis.
- 4.4.2 • The footpath database is proving very useful, and 84% of path inspections are input directly into the database. Thanks to Roger Fielding for developing and managing the process.
- 4.4.3 • Thanks to Tony Battilana for gathering the results of the footpath survey, which are classified as follows:
  - Group A Good ) 90% of paths
  - Group B Acceptable )
  - Group C Useable with difficulty 6% of paths
  - Group D Path obstructed 4% of paths

The 10% in Groups C&D has reduced from 13% in 2010, and it is hoped that this position will improve with the path maintenance working parties.
- 4.4.4 • Thanks to Brian Richardson for organising footpath maintenance parties which are volunteers from our members. They work on a Monday and Friday, and members are authorised by Cheshire East Council.  
A photographic record would be very useful of 'before and after' of paths being maintained. Chairman to discuss with Brian Richardson.

DG

### 5. Election of Officers

- 5.1 • The position of Footpath Secretary continues to remain vacant; nobody offered to take on this role.
- 5.2 • The following officers stood for re-election, and were elected unopposed: David Gylee (Chairman); David Bates (Secretary), Jane Gay (Committee Member). Roger Norton will continue to act as an advisor on publicity.
- 5.3 • The following officers retired from the Committee, Ken Hobbs (Treasurer); Brian Griffiths (Membership Secretary); Alan Catherall, and Mike Bull (Committee Members).
- 5.4 • New Committee members elected:
  - Colin Finlayson (Treasurer), proposed by Ken Hobbs, seconded by Brian Griffiths.
  - Mike Bull from the committee elected to Membership Secretary, proposed by Lesley Bull, seconded by the Chairman.
  - Andy Davies and Sue Munslow elected as Committee Members.

### 6 Motions Received

- 6.1 • Linda Brackenbury proposed Weekend programme of walks to be posted on the Forum.  
The following amendments were proposed:
  - Proposed by Jane Gay – The period of time should be January to March, to replace the original time period of December, January, and February. **This amendment was accepted by the majority.**
  - Proposed by Helen Richardson – delete the wording 'operates in exactly the same way as for the mid-week walks'. The wording of the proposal is now:

“The weekend programme of walks for the winter months of January, February, and March operates with leaders putting the walk details on the Forum.”

**This amendment was accepted by the majority**

- **Motion carried 24:4.** Committee to organise implementation.

**C'mittee**

- 6.2
- Norman Ridley proposed Reclassification of CE Ramblers Walks.
    - **The motion was rejected by the majority, 4:24**

## 7 Appointment of Auditor

- 7.1
- Officially called an “Independent Examiner”.  
Dr Keith Bridgett, has kindly agreed to continue as independent examiner, and was duly appointed.

## 8. Any other business

- 8.1
- Printing of telephone numbers on the walk programmes to be stopped.
- 8.2
- John Goodman expressed his thanks for the assistance he received in developing the Charles Head permissive path.
- 8.3
- Use of Postcodes to find locations in the countryside are sometimes unreliable, and members have missed walks by arriving at the incorrect location.  
The Postcode used for the start of a walk is not always 100% accurate, compared to the Grid Reference which is reliable, and should be used. Whilst the Postcode may still be used as a guide, Roger Fielding is working to resolve the problem.  
Chairman to discuss with Roger.
- 8.4
- The custom and practice for Committee Members to stand for 3 years. Committee were requested to consider a change to 4 years.
- 8.5
- A vote of thanks was given to Dr Keith Bridgett for acting as Independent Examiner of the accounts.
- 9.
- The meeting closed at 3.40 p.m.  
Many thanks to Jane Gay for organising the venue and refreshments.

**C'mittee**

**DG**

**C'mittee**

**David Bates – Secretary**  
**9<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

## REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

### Chairman

The time has come, the Chairman said, to move on to other things.

After 3 years in the role as Chairman of East Cheshire Ramblers Group I am stepping down. It has been a busy, eventful, but nevertheless very rewarding period. I have been blessed with excellent help and support from the Committee and the Footpath Committee, as well as very many other volunteers.

I do believe that the Group has moved forward during my time as Chairman. I think especially of the recent excellent footpath project work, the new concessionary footpath, and recognising the necessity of moving onwards into this digital age.

During my second year as Chairman I discovered that the Group was formed in 1973 to 'maintain and improve footpaths'. Our ethos was (and still is) about footpaths. My thanks on behalf of the Group go to all footpath inspectors as well as the projects undertaken by Brian Richardson and his merry band of volunteers.

All of our special and social events have been well supported, quite regularly events are "sold out" and a waiting list formed. Week-ends away have been vibrant and lively. The organisers (thank you Ann Thompson, Alan Catherall, Jane and Frank Gay) can be relied upon to choose a week-end with glorious sunny weather. Coach trips, organised by Brian Griffiths, have been varied and interesting; again well supported with a "large" coach needed on frequent occasions.

We continue to have excellent publicity in the local press, with Roger Norton setting up and continuing to provide (via Helen Richardson) a weekly column in the Macclesfield and Wilmslow Express. Without doubt this publicity has kept our name in the spotlight and has resulted in attracting new members to join our Group.

We have an outstanding walking programme, envied by many other Ramblers and Groups in our Area. We do regularly attract members from Stockport, Congleton and Derbyshire Dales on many of our walks.

I am frequently impressed by the talents on offer to our Group. As well as the footpath project work mentioned earlier, we do have an excellent website, developed by Graham Beech and continued this year by Roger Fielding, with new ideas and features improving the speedy access to information for all. Then there is the lively and stimulating newsletter, painstakingly put together by Ralph Atherton, which will soon be replaced by a more up to date website facility.

If I have missed anyone out I do apologise. I know that we have a host of volunteers who perform an invaluable service to the Group. Thank you to one and all!

I will briefly mention Membership, which has seen a steady decline over the last 3 years, part of a trend for some years. While a significant part of the Membership is totally outside of our control, it is indeed gratifying to know that overall walking membership has increased slightly in that period. However, it must be recognised that the Group as a whole is aging. When I joined 9 years ago, the 'core' walking membership is still the same 'core' walking membership today. We must consider the future walking membership, and I would urge all to reflect and consider how we might attract a younger walking membership in order to keep the Group active and thriving in future years.

Apart from me, all of the current committee is continuing in their current role. My sincere thanks go to all for their time; their dedication, their help and guidance to me and of course their individual and collective humour.

I am aware that we have a prospective Chairman to take on my role. May I wish the new Chairman all the very best and trust that members will give their continued help and support.

Next year is sure to be another busy year with a variety of special events to look forward to. Please keep watching our website where all of the advance information will be published.

Happy walking!

David Gylee  
16/10/2014



## **Treasurer**

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### **East Cheshire Group (ECR)**

#### **Treasurer's Report for 2013/14**

##### **Overview**

As has been the case in recent years the financial climate for all charities remains difficult with Ramblers Central Office continuing to encourage Groups to identify operational savings wherever possible alongside requesting us to utilise our reserves. Consistent with these philosophies ECR continues to control costs and has used some reserves to fund our footpath maintenance projects.

Overall we had a surplus of £2719 (vs a deficit of £599 in 2012/13 ) and the bank balance at year end remains a healthy £6783 (up from £4063 in the previous year )

The attached accounts are extracts from the return made to Central Office and present our funds broken into Restricted ,Main and Self -Funded.

##### **Income**

Our funding for the year from Central Office was £2985 (up from £2445 )

Our Self Funded activities generated sufficient surplus to allow us once again to transfer £500 from our self funded reserve to our Special Footpaths Fund to help with future maintenance projects.

We received generous donations throughout the year totalling £700 which were added to our Restricted fund.

We were also reimbursed two Grant applications made to Central Office (£664 and £729) in support of equipment and training expenses for our Footpath Maintenance Teams.

We also received commissions totaling £120 from the Ramblers Worldwide Holidays Company (RWH) for holidays undertaken by our members.

##### **General Expenses**

Due to increased use of our Website and emailing as the principal forms of communication with the majority of our members we have managed to keep our admin costs just below £200.

We continued to subsidise 50% ( £126) of the costs of "Incidence Training " for walk leaders organised by Lindley Educational Trust.

Donations totalling £200 were made from the Main fund to the Buxton,Glossop,Edale and Kinder Mountain Rescue Teams.

##### **Footpaths**

We funded work costing £1487 on various footpath maintenance projects including additional drainage work to the new permissive path at Charles Head .

#### **Social Events /Walks Away**

The Social Events for the year included,curry nights ,Hotpot and Hoedown,Slide show and Xmas Lunches for Walkers. There were weekends away to Patterdale and Kirkby Lonsdale, plus a coach trip to Ilkley .These activities generated an overall surplus of £464.

#### **Budget for 2014/15**

The budget for next year ,has recently been approved by Central Office ,this will provide us with funding to match our operating expenses plus £1500 towards footpath projects .In addition we have again designated £850 from our reserves to fund an increased footpath maintenance programme for the forthcoming year.

#### **Thanks**

Thanks to all those colleagues who have organised and administered individual events and importantly provided the necessary paperwork that enable us to keep the ECR accounts in order.

Thanks also to Dr. Keith Bridgett for providing the independent examination of these accounts.

Colin Finlayson  
Honorary Treasurer

30th October 2014

Name : East Cheshire  
 Code: CH02  
 Year ended: 30/09/14

Restricted					
Receipts	Current yr	Prior yr	Payments	Current yr	Prior yr
Internal transfer			Internal transfer		
Donations	700.00	70.00	General	461.84	500.00
Legacies					
Grants					
Deposit interest					
Investment income					
Other	500.00	500.00			
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>	<b>570.00</b>	<b>Total payments</b>	<b>461.84</b>	<b>500.00</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>738.16</b>	<b>70.00</b>			

Main					
Receipts	Current yr	Prior yr	Payments	Current yr	Prior yr
From CO (funding)			To CO		
From CO (other)			To Area		
From Area (funding)	2,985.00	2,445.00	To Group (funding)		
From Area (other)			To Group (other)		
From Group			To S/W Council		
From S/W Council			Walks programmes	38.00	421.27
T/fer from 'Self-funded'			Walks related		
Donations	120.00		Walks leader training	468.50	460.00
Legacies			Newsletters/publicity		126.00
Grants	1,384.04		Publication/goods costs		21.80
Fundraising			Campaigns/casework	368.91	197.50
Deposit interest	5.60	5.23	Practical work	1,118.57	1,600.80
Investment income			Fundraising costs		
Publication/goods sales			Meetings (inc. AGM)	47.19	40.00
Advert sales			Admin	190.51	166.65
Other	254.00	228.00	Other	500.00	250.00
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>4,748.64</b>	<b>2,678.23</b>	<b>Total payments</b>	<b>2,731.68</b>	<b>3,284.02</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>2,016.96</b>	<b>- 605.79</b>			

**Self-funded**

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Current yr</b>	<b>Prior yr</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Current yr</b>	<b>Prior yr</b>
Day walks	769.50	1,109.75	Day walks	570.64	936.00
Holidays	1,682.00	2,792.50	Holidays	295.56	2,721.98
Socials	3,086.00	4,225.80	Socials	4,207.20	4,046.50
Deposit interest			T/fer to 'Main'		
Other		210.00	Other	500.00	697.20
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>5,537.50</b>	<b>8,338.05</b>	<b>Total payments</b>	<b>5,573.40</b>	<b>8,401.68</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>- 35.90</b>	<b>- 63.63</b>			

<b>Summary</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Main</b>	<b>Self-funded</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Prior yr</b>
Total receipts	1,200.00	4,748.64	5,537.50	<b>11,486.14</b>	11,586.28
Total payments	461.84	2,731.68	5,573.40	<b>8,766.92</b>	12,185.70
<b>Surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>738.16</b>	<b>2,016.96</b>	<b>- 35.90</b>	<b>2,719.22</b>	<b>- 599.42</b>
Fixed asset movement				-	
Investment movement				-	
Stock movement				-	
<b>Movement in funds</b>	<b>738.16</b>	<b>2,016.96</b>	<b>- 35.90</b>	<b>2,719.22</b>	<b>- 599.42</b>

Name: East Cheshire  
Code: CH02

Year ended: 30/09/14

	Current yr			
Assets	Restricted	Main	Self-funded	Total
Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-	-
Stock	-	-	-	-
Loans due in	-	-	-	-
Cash & bank	1,384.69	5,314.25	83.66	6,782.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,384.69</b>	<b>5,314.25</b>	<b>83.66</b>	<b>6,782.60</b>

Liabilities	Restricted	Main	Self-funded	Total
Loans due out	-	-	-	-

Net assets/ liabilities (funds)	Restricted	Main	Self-funded	Total
	1,384.69	5,314.25	83.66	6,782.60

[A]

Balance sheet reconciliation	
Movement in funds: balance sheet [A] - [B]	2,719.22
Movement in funds: R&P	2,719.22
<b>Variance [C] - [D]</b>	-

[C]

[D]

	Prior yr			
Assets	Restricted	Main	Self-funded	Total
Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-	-
Stock	-	-	-	-
Loans due in	-	-	-	-
Cash & bank	646.53	3,297.29	119.56	4,063.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>646.53</b>	<b>3,297.29</b>	<b>119.56</b>	<b>4,063.38</b>

Liabilities	Restricted	Main	Self-funded	Total
Loans due out	-	-	-	-

Net assets/ liabilities (funds)	Restricted	Main	Self-funded	Total
	646.53	3,297.29	119.56	4,063.38

[B]

## Summary of financial year for Independent Examiner

Summary	Restricted	Main	Self-funded	Total
Total receipts	1,200.00	4,748.64	5,537.50	11,486.14
Total payments	461.84	2,731.68	5,573.40	8,766.92
Closing cash balance	1,384.69	5,314.25	83.66	6,782.60
<b>Net assets/liabilities (funds)</b>	<b>1,384.69</b>	<b>5,314.25</b>	<b>83.66</b>	<b>6,782.60</b>

Having carried out procedures in accordance with the Area and Group independent examination guidelines, I consider the " CH02 "accounts to give a fair representation of the Area's/Group's financial activities for the year to 30 September 2014.

Signed:

*Keith Bridgett*

Date:

30/10/14

Name of examiner:

KA BRIDGETT

## Membership

- 1) The total number of ECR members stood at 620 on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014, the last monthly number available from Ramblers Head Office before this report had to be completed for the AGM.
- 2) The total number of members reported to the AGM in 2013 had been 629, a fall from the previous year from 662. The rate of decline in total membership numbers over the last year has, therefore, reduced very considerably. Over the past year about three or four people join our group each month.
- 3) In March this year I contacted Ramblers membership services at head office to enquire whether or not falling membership numbers were being recorded in Ramblers groups throughout the country. In addition I asked if any research had been undertaken to help explain this.
- 4) Head Office did confirm there has been a ubiquitous decline in membership over the past few years. They had commissioned research in 2011 regarding this and sent me the findings, which were more detailed than I had bargained for. One conclusion from this was that members are most active within the group between the ages of 55 to 65, which was a surprise given the number of very active members in our group who are well over this age, but, perhaps, explains the retirement of our chairman now he has reached that age this year. The research also found there is a spike in the number of people not renewing membership after seven years. The largest group, however, not to renew their membership are people who have only joined for a year. A crucial message from this research, therefore, was to not be complaisant that new members would enjoy the experience of their membership. Every effort needs to be made to make them welcome as new members and not assume they will enjoy their membership simply because they like walking. Nevertheless the total membership numbers for our group, although registering a small decline over the past year, do appear to be holding up well compared to other Ramblers groups.
- 5) A special thanks needs to be given to Roger Norton and walk leaders who, since April this year, have written up their walks and supplied photographs to appear in the local papers. Not only are we asking members these days to take on the responsibility of leading walks but also to be journalists as well. I hope most of them have enjoyed seeing an account of their walk in print. I enjoy reading these articles and now routinely look out for them in the local paper. This has certainly helped in raising and maintaining the public profile of our ECR group.
- 6) Our excellent website is also a very important means of recruiting new members, as well as giving good, easily accessible information about the group to current members. It has been noticeable over this last year a decline in the number of people making enquiries through me about joining the ramblers. I suggest this is very probably due to potential new members being able to access information about the group on the website before they decide whether to join or not, as well as, perhaps, noticing the newspaper articles. Notwithstanding this reduction in the number of enquiries I have received from people considering joining there has been no reduction in the numbers each month who have joined. The numbers joining this year has been about the same as last year.
- 7) How we communicate with all our members has been a constant issue for the committee over the past year, and has no doubt been addressed in other reports to the AGM. The large increases in the cost of postage and printing have resulted in making the decision to encourage members to read the newsletter and walks programme on the website. Printing the newsletter and the weekend walks programme has ceased. Considerable time and effort from David Gylee, and in particular Sue Munslow, has gone into creating a combined midweek and weekend walks programme which could be printed from the computer and sent to members without a computer. Three members asked for a computer printed copy of the newsletter, and

another three a copy of the combined walks programme, which were sent to them through the post.

- 8) The bane of previous membership secretaries has been their communication, or rather lack of it, with head office. During my predecessor's time as membership secretary head office had started to send out both weekly updates on who had joined along with more detailed monthly reports on both who had joined and left during the previous month. This procedure has continued meaning that I can continue to send out welcome letters very quickly after someone has joined. Overall communication with head office over individual matters has improved, with now only a very few exceptions to this.

Mike Bull- ECR Membership Secretary.



## **Footpaths**

The Footpath Committee consists of 7 people: Dave Barraclough, David Bates, Tony Battilana, Alan Catherall, Neil Collie, Peter Cummins and Graham Walker. The roles of Meeting Chairman and Minutes Secretary are carried out in rotation. As Minutes Secretary at the last meeting, it falls to me to write this report to the AGM. The key activities of the Committee are described below.

### **1. Inspecting footpaths**

A team of 37 volunteer inspectors conducts an annual survey of public footpaths in the 33 parishes covered by the East Cheshire group. We aim to visit all 1268 separately numbered paths in the district, whose total length is 433 miles. Once again this year, we have succeeded in inspecting virtually every path. A valuable development over the past few years has been the introduction of an on-line database, which inspectors can use to record their findings. We are very grateful to Roger Fielding for developing and maintaining the database, which simplifies the task of recording and analysing the results of the survey. Tony Battilana coordinates the survey and is always keen to recruit new inspectors for this rewarding and valuable work.

### **2. Identifying the paths in the worst condition.**

The Inspectors rank each footpath as Class A to Class D where:

- Class A – Excellent
- Class B – Adequate
- Class C – Usable with difficulty
- Class D – Obstructed.

On Class C and D paths, they also record the type of fault which makes the path difficult to use or obstructed. This information is recorded in the database and can easily be extracted. The inspectors are also encouraged to report the most serious faults directly to the Cheshire East Council Public Rights Of Way (CEC PROW) Unit based in Crewe.

### **3. Getting action to improve unsatisfactory paths**

All the information in the database on this year's survey has been shared with the network maintenance officers in the PROW Unit and we are due to discuss the results with them later in November 2014. The results show that, yet again, the number of footpaths classed as C or D has reduced. The total has reduced steadily from 13% of the total paths in 2010 to 9% in 2014. This reduction is a result of the efforts of our inspectors in locating and reporting faults and prompt action by CEC staff. In addition, the ECR Projects Group, whose work is reported elsewhere, now undertakes clearance work on Class C paths. A number of the paths in Class D are legally closed for safety reasons or to allow construction work so we are unable to take any further action. In other cases, the fault can only be remedied by legal intervention by the PROW Unit, and little progress is being made because the Unit is under-resourced, but we continue to remind them of their duties.

**3. Receiving and offering views on various local authority footpath proposals** for footpath diversions and for planning applications that affect the rights of way network. This work usually involves one or more site visits and often lengthy discussion at the footpaths committee. During 2014, nine different diversion proposals were considered, most are not controversial, but two in particular have required extensive correspondence with the PROW Unit and in one case our representative, Neil Collie, spoke at the CEC Public Rights Of Way Committee.

**4. Attending Liaison Meetings and Consultative meetings** with Cheshire East PROW Department and with other Ramblers Groups in the surrounding area. Several Committee members are involved with these meetings.

### **5. Dealing with path problems raised by members and the public**

The Committee receives reports of problems via both the East Cheshire Ramblers website and the national Ramblers website. Dave Barraclough handles these, which vary significantly in their nature. There have been 7 new enquiries over the past year and all have been dealt with and the case 'closed'. Most concern path closures, either by fallen trees, overgrown vegetation or by landowner's

actions. We may approach the CEC PROW Unit to request corrective action, or we may give the objectors information on the legal position of the problem. Examples of recent problems are: a chicken coup erected across a path near Prestbury, overgrown vegetation across a section of path at Alderley Edge where the Projects Team re-instated waymarks and the PROW organised strimming to reinstate the path, and providing information to a Wilmslow resident on how to claim a longstanding permissive path as an official 'Right of Way'.

The present Footpath Committee benefits from many years of collective experience among its members, but new members are always welcome to help continue this essential work for the health of our footpath network.

Tony Battilana            November 2014

## Footpath Maintenance

### WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE TEAM

LEADER: BRIAN RICHARDSON

YEAR 2013	WORK LOCATION	WORK UNDERTAKEN	Nos. & HOURS EMPLOYED		
			Nos.	Hrs.	Cum Hrs.
November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Wilmslow FP23	Trees removed and undergrowth trimmed. 40% of path opened on correct alignment.	4	16	
November 15 <sup>th</sup>	Prestbury FP26	Dense Holly hedgerow cutback, Staples (anti slip) nailed to wood footplates on 3 stiles.	6	28	44
November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Wilmslow FP 23	Clearing dense shrubs and saplings.	5	22	66
November 25 <sup>th</sup>	Prestbury FP 33, 33A, FP5	Clearing vegetation, wooden railing mended Tree removed from FP 5.	5	24	90
November 29 <sup>th</sup>	Prestbury FP 33, 33A	Clearing vegetation, place staples on steps, and stile footplates.	5	21	111
November 30 <sup>th</sup>	Prestbury FP 26 Withinlee	Stile refurbishment and reconnection of barbed wire.	1	3	114
December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wilmslow FP 23	Clearing brush and shrubs, and tree stumps. Path route clearly visible.	5	20	134
December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Wilmslow FP 23	Dug out tree stumps, and shrubs. Cleared over hanging branches. All FP 23 walkable on its correct line.	4	16	150
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Prestbury FP33, 33A, FP26	Completed replacing staples on FP 33A, path is complete. Placed staples on north side FP 33 Cleared 7 metre length of Holly edge FP 26.	2	5	155
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	Prestbury FP 26	Tidy of the previously cleared Holly.	2	5	160

YEAR 2014	WORK LOCATION	WORK UNDERTAKEN	Nos. & HOURS EMPLOYED		
			Nos.	Hrs.	Cum Hrs.
June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rainow FP 21& 22 Harrop Farm Woods	Start of cutting back Hawthorn edge. FP 96 cut down saplings over pathway. Cutback dense Holly trees, branches and trunks encroached on pathway.	2	13	
July 7 <sup>th</sup>	Rainow FP 22 Harrop Farm Woods	FP 22 west of FP 96 continues with similar work. PROW strimmed this path.	2	11	24
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Rainow FP 19, 22 and 96 Harrop Farm Woods	FP 19 cut down two large fallen branches of ash across Black Brook. FP 96 cutback fallen branches of Rowan tree. FP 22 west of FP 96 continuing with previous work.	2	11	35
July 21 <sup>st</sup>	Rainow FP 14 Drainage, Charles Head Link	Features and Levels surveyed for detailed plan of proposed drainage.	1	9	44
July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Rainow FP 22, 86 and 96 Harrop Farm Woods	FP 22 cutting out extensive intrusive over growth of Holly trees, and branches of Oak, Rowan, and Birch. Remove stumps of cut down trees.	3	18	62
August 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rainow FP 14 Drainage, Charles Head Link	Preparation work for drainage system. Movement of materials, and trenching work.	4	18	80
August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rainow FP 14 Drainage, Charles Head Link	Excavating trench for pipe crossing path. Separating stones, exposing ground natural drainage contours.	5	11	91
August 4 <sup>th</sup>	Rainow FP 14 Drainage, Charles Head Link	Excavating trench for pipe, building lower courses for headwall, embedding pipe. Commenced excavation of collection ditch.	6	32.5	123.5

YEAR 2014 cont'd	WORK LOCATION	WORK UNDERTAKEN	Nos. & HOURS EMPLOYED		
			Nos.	Hrs.	Cum Hrs.
August 5 <sup>th</sup>	Rainow FP 14 Drainage, Charles Head Link	Excavated collection sump at head of pipe. Continued with excavation of collection ditch.	4	22	145.5
August 15 <sup>th</sup>	Rainow FP 14 Drainage, Charles Head Link	Drystone wall lining to pipe inlet sump partly built. Excavation works, short pipe placed under fence and headwall built.	4	22	167.5
August 16 <sup>th</sup>	Rainow FP 14 Drainage, Charles Head Link	Low wall alongside channel north of gate completed. Low wall south of gate built. Various construction jobs undertaken.	5	27.5	195
August 17 <sup>th</sup>	Rainow FP 14 Drainage, Charles Head Link	Extra step added to south higher path. Excavation work undertaken on a number of areas, inlet sump dug and stone lined.	3	14	209
August 18 <sup>th</sup>	Rainow FP 14 Drainage, Charles Head Link	Rain-wash collection gutter extended up hill. Cobble surfacing undertaken. Staples added to wooden steps. Lower level pipe's headwall and ramp build, various other jobs done.	3	19.5	228.5
August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Alderley Edge FP44 A34 Bypass path move	Relocated two way marker posts to move the path to higher & drier place. Realigned way marker disks.	4	7.5	236
September 12 <sup>th</sup>	Rainow FP 14 Drainage, Charles Head Link	Steps on south approach to gate re-constructed. Gate and supporting post installed. Finger posts erected. Way marker discs fixed at various locations. Project completed, except for work on gate spring.	6	39	275

YEAR 2014 cont'd	WORK LOCATION	WORK UNDERTAKEN	Nos. & HOURS EMPLOYED		
			Nos.	Hrs.	Cum Hrs.
September 15 <sup>th</sup>	Mobberley FP 37 Antrobus Brg (Frozen Mop)	Cut out cracked/split/rotten branches by footbridge. Cutback most constrictive stretches of blackthorn hedgerow.	3	20	295
October 13 <sup>th</sup>					
October					
October					

**Notes**

1. Hours worked do not include tea or lunch breaks.
2. 21 members have contributed to the teamwork achieved, with a fairly even spread of attendances.
3. Estimated expenditure on maintenance to date £2,000

## September 2014 Walk Survey

# REPORT ON SEPTEMBER MONTH 2014 WALK SURVEY

**Note: The September 2014 results are shown with September 2013 results (which exclude Patterdale walks) to make the two periods comparable.**

### 1. Response Rate

	September 2014	September 2013
Number of scheduled walks	29	27
Walk information received	23	25
<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>93%</b>

### 2. Overview of Walks September 2014 compared to September 2013

Walk Type	Number of individuals walking		Actual Number of walks in the survey		Total number of walkers recorded	
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
<b>Long</b>	41	56	7	5	62	83
<b>Medium</b>	61	82	9	11	110	135
<b>Short</b>	68	63	6	9	99	99
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>317</b>
<b>Number of individuals who went on more than one type of walk</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>35</b>				
<b>Net Actual Number of Individuals walking</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>166</b>			<b>271</b>	<b>317</b>

This table shows in 2014, 151 walkers undertook 271 walks, compared with September 2013 where 166 walkers undertook 317 walks.

### 3. Membership Type

Table showing walkers by membership type		
Membership Type	Walker number	
	Sept 2014	Sept 2013
Member East Cheshire Ramblers	127	137
Staffordshire Ramblers		1
Stockport Ramblers	5	4
Congleton Ramblers	2	
Mid Cheshire Ramblers	1	
Vale of Clwyd Ramblers	1	
Potential Members		1
Not sure if member	7	4
Non Member		19
Cheshire East Ranger/Staff	8	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>166</b>

### 4. Members who walked of total membership

	September 2014	September 2013	% Change 2014 cf 2013
<b>East Cheshire Membership</b>	628	648	-3.1%
<b>ECR Members Walking</b>	127	137	-7.3%
<b>% Members Walking</b>	20.2%	21.1%	

### 5. Movement of walkers 2014 compared to 2013

Type of Walk	Total number of Walkers recorded		Actual Number of Walks in the Survey		Average No. of Walkers per walk	
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
<b>Long</b>	62	83	7	5	9	17
<b>Medium</b>	110	135	9	11	12	12
<b>Short</b>	99	99	6	9	17	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>



## 6. Names of Walkers

The names of walkers by walk type is shown below, the data for walker by date is available but is a lot of data to publish.

Walk Type		Long	Medium	Short	Total
<b>ECR</b>	<b>Adrian Flinn</b>	2			2
	<b>Alan Catherall</b>	1			1
	<b>Alan Wootton</b>		1		1
	<b>Andy Davies</b>		3		3
	<b>Ann Goddsell</b>		1		1
	<b>Ann Thompson</b>	1	1		2
	<b>Anne Henderson</b>			1	1
	<b>Barbara Hare</b>	1			1
	<b>Barbara Jackson</b>	1	3		4
	<b>Benita Kassas</b>		1	1	2
	<b>Bob Bland</b>			2	2
	<b>Brian Griffiths</b>	2	4		6
	<b>Brian Hogan</b>			1	1
	<b>Caroline Finlayson</b>		1		1
	<b>Cath Callan</b>		1		1
	<b>Chris Munslow</b>		2		2
	<b>Christine Brear</b>		2		2
	<b>Colin Finlayson</b>		1		1
	<b>Colin Park</b>	1			1
	<b>Cynthia Chapman</b>	1			1
	<b>Dave Collorick</b>			2	2
	<b>Dave Irving</b>			1	1
	<b>David Clough</b>			4	4
	<b>David Gylee</b>	2			2
	<b>David Highton</b>		4		4
	<b>David Hough</b>	1	6		7
	<b>David Preston</b>		2		2
	<b>Denise Hutchinson</b>		3		3
	<b>Derek Brear</b>		2		2
	<b>Duncan Learmond</b>			3	3
	<b>Elisabeth Cresswell</b>		3		3
	<b>Ernest VanRoss</b>		1		1
	<b>Eunice Jubb</b>		1		1
	<b>Frank Gay</b>			2	2
	<b>Geoff Huddart</b>	2			2
	<b>Geoff Sproston</b>	1			1
	<b>Gerogie Everson</b>		1		1
	<b>Gina Thompson</b>			3	3
	<b>Graham Beech</b>		1		1
	<b>Graham Bothwell</b>	3			3

<b>ECR cont'd</b>	<b>Gwen Sproston</b>	1			1
	<b>Heather Christiansen</b>			1	1
	<b>Heather Delany</b>			1	1
	<b>Helen Battilana</b>	1			1
	<b>Helen Menzies</b>	1	1		2
	<b>Helen Richardson</b>		1		1
	<b>Ian Mabon</b>	2			2
	<b>Ian Perrot</b>	1			1
	<b>Irene Walsh</b>			2	2
	<b>Jake Ezair</b>		1		1
	<b>Jan Whitehead</b>	1			1
	<b>Jane Collorick</b>			1	1
	<b>Jane Gay</b>			3	3
	<b>Janet Allan</b>		2		2
	<b>Janet Weston</b>		1		1
	<b>Jeff Miller</b>		1		1
	<b>Jenny Bordoli</b>			3	3
	<b>Jenny Irwin</b>			1	1
	<b>Jenny Smith</b>		2	2	4
	<b>Jo Wood</b>	1			1
	<b>John Edwards</b>		1		1
	<b>John Goodman</b>	1	1		2
	<b>John Hanley</b>			1	1
	<b>John Wain</b>		3	1	4
	<b>Judith Downes</b>		1		1
	<b>Julian A N Other</b>	1			1
	<b>June Mabon</b>			1	1
	<b>Kate Pettipiece</b>	1	2	1	4
	<b>Kathleen Forde-Johnson</b>		1		1
	<b>Kathryn Carty</b>		2		2
	<b>Kathryn Varty</b>		1		1
	<b>Keith Bridgett</b>	2			2
	<b>Ken Hobbs</b>	1			1
	<b>Laura Bergin</b>		2	1	3
	<b>Laura Hall</b>	2			2
	<b>Lesley Ribeiro</b>			2	2
	<b>Linda Brackenbury</b>	3			3
	<b>Linda Worthington</b>			2	2
	<b>Liz Southern</b>		2	1	3
	<b>Lorraine Tolley</b>			1	1
	<b>Malcolm Combey</b>			2	2
	<b>Margaret Atherton</b>		5		5
	<b>Margaret Harris</b>		2		2
	<b>Marion Duff</b>	1	2		3
	<b>Martin Cave</b>	1	2		3

<b>ECR cont'd</b>	<b>Martin Dunkley</b>		2		2
	<b>Maureen Edwards</b>		1		1
	<b>Maureen O'Connor</b>			2	2
	<b>Maureen Walker</b>			1	1
	<b>Maureen Walton</b>			1	1
	<b>Melanie Pennington</b>			1	1
	<b>Michael Tooze</b>		1	1	2
	<b>Michelle Whetham</b>		1	1	2
	<b>Mike Bull</b>		1		1
	<b>Mike Harding</b>	1			1
	<b>Monica Brinkman</b>	1			1
	<b>Pamela Bennett</b>			2	2
	<b>Patricia Bland</b>			2	2
	<b>Pauline Hanley</b>			2	2
	<b>Pauline Hogan</b>			1	1
	<b>Peter Attwell</b>		1		1
	<b>Peter Everson</b>		1		1
	<b>Peter Jaques</b>		2		2
	<b>Peter Whitehead</b>	1			1
	<b>Ralph Atherton</b>		5		5
	<b>Rob Stevenson</b>	1			1
	<b>Roger Fielding</b>	3			3
	<b>Roger Jubb</b>		1		1
	<b>Roger Norton</b>		4		4
	<b>Roger Thompson</b>	2			2
	<b>Rosie Forth</b>			5	5
	<b>Roy Gillespie</b>			1	1
	<b>Ruth Harrison</b>			1	1
	<b>Sally Ardern</b>			1	1
	<b>Sandra Edwards</b>		1		1
	<b>Steve Hull</b>	4			4
	<b>Sue Munslow</b>		2		2
	<b>Sue Thersby</b>	3			3
	<b>Teresa Marshall</b>		1	1	2
	<b>Terry Heathcote</b>			3	3
	<b>Tony Battilana</b>	1			1
	<b>Tony Hayter</b>			1	1
	<b>Tony Walker</b>			1	1
	<b>Veronica Dunkley</b>		2		2
	<b>Wendy Douglas</b>			2	2
	<b>Willie Lees</b>			2	2
	<b>Yvonne Vaughan-Jones</b>			1	1
<b>TOTAL ECR</b>	<b>127 WALKERS</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>244</b>

Walk Type		Long	Medium	Short	Total
Cheshire East Ranger/Staff	Martin James			1	1
	David James			1	1
	A N Other 3 A N Other			1	1
	A N Other 4 A N Other			1	1
	A N Other 5 A N Other			1	1
	A N Other 6 A N Other			1	1
	A N Other 7 A N Other			1	1
	A N Other 8 A N Other			1	1
<b>TOTAL Cheshire East Ranger</b>				<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>

Congleton Ramblers	Isa MacQueen			1	1
	Sue O'Ryan	2	1		3
<b>TOTAL Congleton Ramblers</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>

<b>Mid Cheshire Ramblers</b>	Peter Naylor			<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
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Stockport Ramblers	Carol Farrell		1		1
	David Brown		1		1
	Lesley Quinn			1	1
	Lyn Brindley	2			2
	Tony Garland			1	1
<b>TOTAL Stockport Ramblers</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>

<b>Vale of Clwyd</b>	John Kunner	<b>1</b>			<b>1</b>
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don't know	A N Other 1 A N Other			1	1
	A N Other 2 A N Other			1	1
	Clare A N Other			1	1
	Ivani A N Other			1	1
	Jane A N Other			1	1
	Joan Irving			1	1
	Peter Robinson			1	1
<b>TOTAL don't know</b>				<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>

<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>151 WALKERS</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>271</b>
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DB October 2014