

**Location: 13. Cherington Crescent, Macclesfield, SK11 8LA**

**Meeting called by Jane Gay**

<b>Attendees</b>	Jane Gay Keith Anderson Maggie Swindells Sue Munslow Melanie Davy Neil Collie Nigel Hersee	JG KA MS SM MD JM NC NH	Chair Lost Ways Social Secretary Membership Secretary Without portfolio Footpath Secretary Secretary
<b>Distribution</b>	All present plus	JM, CF	
<b>Note</b>	<i>Additional</i> comments to the Appendices are recorded as sub sections below of the relevant Appendix for clarity.		
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies</b>		
<b>1.1</b>	Jennefer Mellor Colin Finlayson		
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of Last Meeting – 18 Oct 2021</b>		
<b>2.1</b>	No comments received		
<b>3.</b>	<b>Matters arising from last meeting</b>		
<b>3.1</b>	JG confirmed that a £500-00 donation is to be made to South Cheshire and a plaque will be installed saying donated by ECR. NC offered to design the plaque.		Note
<b>3.2</b>	Balance of donations on behalf of Alan Catterall (circa £180-00) to be distributed after further discussion.		Note
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Walk Programme</b>		
<b>4.1.1</b>	Currently there are small differences in the current Walk Programme for 2022. Overall, the number of walks is increasing vs 2021.		Note
<b>4.1.2</b>	Currently of concern is the ageing of the walk leaders and will need to be reviewed.		All
<b>4.1.3</b>	MD agreed to extract wording from the walk leaders' checklist on the RA website and create a print friendly version.		MD
<b>4.2</b>	Walk Numbers from 2021		

See table below

**Notes**

Cancelled walks not included.  
 Weekends away not included coach trips would not be either had there been any.  
 Midweek Christmas lunch walk not included. There was no New Year’s day walk last year.  
 MMW: 1 date missing in first half of year; 2 in second half.  
 I decided that it was sensible to quote the mean to the nearest whole number.  
 Anything less would not be significant.

**Walk Numbers for 2021**

Programme	LMW	LWE	MMW	MWE	SMW	SWE	EVE	STR
<b>Jan to June</b>								
No. Walks	12	10	12	10	11	10	7	5
Max	11	11	13	16	22	19	12	15
Min	4	5	5	4	9	9	3	8
<b>Mean</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Median</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>
Mode	8	9	12	7	18	12	12	n/a
<b>July to Dec</b>								
No. Walks	25	17	20	18	25	23	8	8
Max	15	15	19	14	28	28	12	12
Min	3	5	6	4	3	3	3	4
<b>Mean</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Median</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>6</b>
Mode	9	7	12	7	17	18	8	6

**Comments**

The mean and median values are very close for all programmes. The mode is included out of curiosity and is not really significant.

The mean attendance for the whole year for both EVE and STR was 8.

Numbers for all programmes except MWE and STR increased or held steady in the second half of the year; perhaps an indication of recovery from covid. The turnout is generally better for the shorter walks, although the MWE looks to be suffering from competition from long and short walks on the same day.

There is little further analysis to be done. It might make sense to divide the year into quarters rather than halves as we have done traditionally, as this would better reflect any difference between the seasons. There are many factors that can affect the walk numbers which are not readily available such as weather (forecast or actual), distance (of walk or from home), starting point, day of week, season, leader, car parking, refreshments at the end of the walk, or just plain human perversity.

5. Reports from Officers

5.1 Chair refer Appendix 1

<b>5.1.1</b>		
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Treasurers Report Appendix 2</b>	
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Footpath Secretary Report Appendix 3</b>	
5.3.1	NC reported 2 new members joined the Footpaths Committee Louise Whittaker Sarah Shannon	Note
<b>5.4</b>	<b>Membership Secretary Report Appendix 4</b>	
5.4.1	The Newly logo'd Ramblers "Get more out of your walks" was passed around and walk leaders are recommend having a stock together with ICE cards	All
5.4.2	The revamping of the RA is causing problems with databases which is reported as a cause of frustration to ECR members. SM has contacted to Head Office who apologised for the difficulties. Any continuing challenges should be referred to CO.	Note
5.4.3	As a general question MD asked why Concessionary & Life Time rates aren't published?	
<b>5.5</b>	<b>Social Secretary Report Appendix 5</b>	
5.5.1	Note Calendar has been updated from that circulated with agenda.	Refer
<b>5.6</b>	<b>Lost Ways Report Appendix 6</b>	
5.6.1	KA is working on a Lost Ways database for discussion at a potential Zoom meeting.	Note
5.6.2	KA is attending Zoom meeting with CO members however it seems potentially Lost Ways are not a priority due to the amount of effort vs reward, as an example on footpath took 12 years to resolve the issues.	Note
5.6.3	Locally ECR has between approximately 5 to 9 available but again the question is the amount of effort in question.	Note
5.6.4	KA suggested the British Horse Society may have funding to rediscover Bridle Ways. NC confirmed no objection to this providing these are surface for walkers.	Note
5.6.5	It should be noted that ECR has the greatest % of paths per Sq. Mile.	Note
5.6.6	MD proposed the 5 – 9 paths be made available to the wider ECR membership to engage the level of interest.	Note
5.6.7	KA to circulate CF folder to NC for review together with a short list.	KA
5.6.8	KA spreadsheet attached to minutes circulation	
<b>5.7</b>	<b>Social Media Report Appendix 7</b>	
5.7.1	The use of "Meet Up" was discussed and the committee agreed to a 6-month trial to validate up take for all walk types.	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Actions from AGM</b>	
6.1	JG asked NC for an update re Carrs Wood	NC
<b>7.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
7.1	Regarding Privacy objections to photographing members, Leaders are to promote the idea at the start of the walk and request for feedback.	All
7.2	I Love Macclesfield to be a potential host for members photographs.	Note
7.3	MS confirmed following requests that the new RA logo is available to download from the RA website. There are also templates for guidance.	All
7.4	JG asked that wherever possible "Ascent" details are to be added to walk routes,	Note



7.5	There is a Mass Trespass talk in October and potential dinner.	Note
7.6	Planning day set for 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	All
7.7	Following a request from NC, MS confirmed templated stationery is available on the RA website with examples circulated with these Minutes.	Note
8.	<b>Future Planned Meeting Dates</b>	
8.1	18 <sup>th</sup> March 2022 subject to their being sufficient subject matter to discuss however the next available date would be w/c 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2022.	All

## Appendix 1

**Chair Report**                      **January 2022**

**Prepared by**                      **Jane Gay**

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### **Attended a Northwest cluster meeting on the 19th of October.**

Brief notes as follows

2022 the updated brand will be launched

A new website will be launched. I have told Roger and Teresa this fact

Four people in Central Office are all working on well-being walks.

A new e training on “dealing with incidents” will be launched

Group/area new committee form will be available to complete after AGMs

I was unable to access this so have emailed the information in and received confirmation that our various roles have been amended.

There will be a monthly online event for aspiring walk leaders. This will be accessed through Eventbrite.

Questions were asked re-risk assessment and that if a claim was made during the three years how did one actually prove that that claimant was on that walk.

It was suggested that Google Drive should be set up to store completed risk assessments. This idea was not greeted with great enthusiasm but obviously there are clear issues with all leaders storing their own risk assessments.

There was discussion about area committee roles and the fact that some people feel we should cut back on area activities. Based on the Cheshire East AGM I would suggest that the sole reason for holding it is to sort out the budget and that there is no desire to increase activities between the groups. Steve Butterfield, the area secretary, is keen to share expertise and that would be the only reason for increased meetings as far as I can see.

### **Appeal for walk leaders**

As a result of the walk coordinators meeting, which appeared to be appreciated by everybody, I sent out an appeal for help in walk leading.

I have to say I was not overwhelmed by the response. It was suggested that we offered the opportunity for people to become recce buddies with the hope that they would then become leaders. This has led to a certain amount of success, thanks mainly, I think, to Melanie



As far as walk leaders are concerned the mid-week medium got one volunteer mid-week short got two volunteers. One person volunteered for short or medium Sundays only. One person volunteered for weekend or mid-week medium.

As far as Reccie buddies are concerned

Two people volunteered for both the week end and mid-week short.

One person volunteered for weekend medium and weekend long.

One person volunteered for weekend long.

I have emailed the relevant coordinators with the above information.

There was one person who offered to help once they had retired in July 2022 and there were two other people who do not walk with us, but are members, who were prepared to help. I have spoken to all of these and suggested a route forward for them.

### **Walk leader training**

Maggie, Gillian and I have met to plan a walk leader training day. We were initially planning on combining this with some apps training but have decided to do two separate events. So the following is provisionally booked

28th February planning meeting

10th June walk leader training day. Am theory, pm practical.

12th September Apps drop-in session.

Help much appreciated especially on walk leader training day.

Obviously there has also been an AGM and several issues were raised some of which I have noted below to help discussion. There may be some others which people want to bring up.

The Carrs Wood path. This was Neil's appeal for help.

Questions were asked about the new logo and advertising material,

People were asked to add ascent details to their walks,

what are we doing about the mass trespass, which is the 21st of April 22,

And ECR 50 years in 2023

Car sharing

I've just noticed two emails coming in from central office which seem to be about branding, I may be wrong.

One is the "Rambler's volunteering newsletter" and one is from "Olly at the Ramblers" I'm sending this prior to reading them!!!

Jane

**Appendix 2****Treasurers Report                      January 2022****Prepared by                                      Colin Finlayson**

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*Apologies to all for my absence from the meeting, my brief report follows:*

**Bank Balance:**

At 20/01/2022 - £7308.02

**Notable Events since previous meeting:****Christmas Lunches**

Two Christmas lunch socials at the Windmill and Church House have been successfully held. Both events passed without any financial implications other than late confusion with the Windmill management regarding method of payment for deposit and also the balance on the day. This was eventually resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

If we plan to use this venue again in 2022 then I will ensure that this issue does not re-occur by holding early discussions with the owners.

A third Christmas function was also held at the Waterside but this did not involve ECR Treasurer because as in previous years, attendees paid individually on the day.

**Way Marker Trials**

We have paid £640.74 for the new way markers and Dave Barraclough is liaising with PROW and ECR Footpath Committee regarding their implementation.

***Report ends***



**Appendix 4****Membership Report                      January 2022****Prepared by                                      Sue Munslow**

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Total number of members 570

In 2021 we had slightly more members joining and our total membership increased slightly. More recently numbers of new members joining have decreased slightly and although our membership has fallen slightly in the last few months it is still slightly more than two years ago.

Several members have moved out of this area and there are a number who have lapsed. These are often fairly new members or members who are no longer walking with the group.



## Appendix 5

**Social Events Report                      January 2022 updated**

**Prepared by                                      Maggie Swindells**

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Andy Davies organised an Indian meal which was very well attended. He has made another booking for the 10<sup>th</sup> of February and the information has been sent out to members.

The Christmas Carol Walk, led by Jenny Bordoli on the first Saturday in December, was well attended despite a last-minute change of venue. The Carols were sung at Styal Mill as Covid restrictions meant the event couldn't take place at St Mary's, Nether Alderley. Many thanks to Jennie for reorganising her walk at the last minute.

In 2021 we were, once again, able to enjoy our annual Christmas meals. The Weekend Walkers meal was held at the Windmill, the Midweek Walkers meal was at the Church House in Bollington and the Long Walkers meal was at the Waterside Café. Thanks to all who attended and to the organisers for arranging the bookings.

Looking ahead to 2022, the year began with our annual "Keith's Sherry Walk" which attracted 46 members on News Year Day! Thanks to Lorraine and Melanie for organising the event and for carrying the sherry and mince pies! I've got a number of events booked for the rest of the year and few which need to be confirmed. Please see the attached DRAFT calendar.

I believe it is ERCs 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ~~this~~ next year and I would be grateful for ideas and events to celebrate this important milestone.

I've contacted McCarthy's Coaches and they have confirmed that day trips 'are back to normal' with the proviso that passengers are asked to wear masks. I'll contact Ann Thompson and Gina Thompson to see if we can reorganise the Settle and or Church Lawton trip. We might be better trialling one to see what the uptake is.

Thanks again to everyone who makes a contribution to the ECR Social Calendar; we couldn't do it without you all.

As always ideas for events are warmly welcomed!

Maggie Swindells

10<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**DRAFT CALENDAR BELOW**



### EAST CHESHIRE RAMBLERS SOCIAL CALENDAR 2022

Thank you to all those involved in organising these events, any suggestions or ideas about an event would be warmly welcomed. Please don't hesitate to contact me on:  
 Maggie Swindells [maggieswindells@gmail.com](mailto:maggieswindells@gmail.com) 07729327940 /01625 829671

<b>1st January 2022</b>	<b>'Keith's Sherry Walk'</b> organised by Melanie Davey and Lorraine Tolley
<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022</b>	<b>Indian Meal at The Viceroy Bollington</b> organised by Andy Davies – details to follow
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April to 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022</b>	<b>Start of fortnightly Strollers' walking programme</b> organised by Maggie Swindells
<b>April 24<sup>th</sup> 10.30</b>	<b>FIO Kinder Trespass 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event Hayfield</b> NOTE NOT AN ECR EVENT
<b>10<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Walk Leader Training</b> led by Gillian Kay
<b>25<sup>th</sup> March TBC</b>	<b>Quiz Night</b> organised by Brian Bennett
<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June</b>	<b>Alderley Copper Mines</b> organised by Steve Hull
<b>25<sup>th</sup> June 2022</b>	<b>A walk with Martin James, Countryside Ranger, Tegg's Nose Country Park</b> organised by Maggie Swindells
<b>Thursday Evening Walks May 2022 TBC</b>	<b>Start of evening walks</b> organised by Ralph Atherton
<b>TBC</b>	<b>Guided Geology Walk, Alderley Edge</b> led by Sue Munslow
<b>27<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Coach Trip to Settle</b> organised by Ann Thompson
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	<b>"A merry dance around Alderley Edge following the Legend of the Wizard and exploring the many mysterious lumps and bumps along the way"</b> Led by Elaine Taylor
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>History Walk Magpie Mine and Lathkilldale</b> led by Judith Wilshaw



<b>12<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Sharing Navigation Aids Workshop</b> organised by Jane Gay and Maggie Swindells
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Bollington Walking Festival</b>
<b>October 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Weekend Away Helmsley</b> organised by Ann Thompson
<b>21<sup>st</sup> October</b>	<b>Kinder Trespass 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Talk</b> by Keith Warrender organised by Maggie Swindells
<b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2022 TBC</b>	ECR AGM
<b>Date TBC</b>	Ramblers Association Area AG
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022</b>	<b>Christmas Carol (Carol Service TBC) short walk</b> Jenny Bordoli
<b>TBC</b>	<b>Mid-Week Christmas Meal</b> The Church House Bollington – organised by Andy Davies
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2022 TBC</b>	<b>Weekend Christmas Meal</b> organised by Maggie Swindells
<b>Date to be confirmed</b>	Long Walkers Christmas Meal organised by TBC

Updated 31<sup>st</sup> January '22



**Appendix 6**

**Lost Ways Report                      January 2022**

**Prepared by** \_\_\_\_\_

Short report to be presented at meeting.

## **Appendix 7**

**Social Media Report                      January 2022**

**Prepared by                                      Jennie Mellor**

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### Facebook update January 2022

I must start by explaining that while I am away and not being able to use my old desk top PC, I only have limited access to the page management and various other functions of the FB page from my mobile devices, meaning that unfortunately, I can't provide you with all of the data on the increased activity since I took on the role of boosting the Facebook page.

I did however save the screenshot, below, that gives a small insight to the activity over the Christmas period.

It has been very encouraging to see the number of posts rising, increasing the traffic to the page and as a result we have picked up a couple of new members.

I had plans to highlight the work of our volunteers and before leaving the UK had set up scheduled posts, which, annoyingly, I am unable to access at the moment.

I have however published an introduction to the work of our volunteers and will recreate as much as I can with the limited resources here.

If anyone would like to contribute with a brief description of their role, that would be very helpful and I would be happy for them to email me so that I can manage the timings of the posts.

I would also like to thank Maggie, who is "minding the fort" in my absence.

Exploring other ways to publicise our walks etc., I wondered if anyone was familiar with the MEETUP website. I find it very useful when I am away, for finding local walking groups. When I first joined there was no cost attached, however I understand that there is a small subscription fee of around £10 per month for organisers, which may be worth paying for a trial period?