

## Notes of Meeting

### East Cheshire Ramblers' Committee Meeting

<b>Date</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	
<b>Time</b>	14:00 hrs	
<b>Location</b>	16 Castle Hill Court, Prestbury, Macclesfield, SK10 4UT	
<b>Attendees</b>	Maggie Swindells	Chair
	Colin Finlayson	Treasurer
	Keith Anderson	Lost Ways
	Neil Collie	Footpath Committee Chair
	Sue Munslow	Membership Secretary
	Melanie Davy	Committee Member
	Gina Thompson	Social Secretary
	Nigel Hersee	Secretary

<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
	Jane Gay	
	Jennefer Mellor	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Previous Minutes</b>	
2.1	No comments	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>	
3.	It was agreed that DRAFT Minutes would be circulated in Adobe .pdf format to the committee for agreement/comment and left open to be returned to the secretary within a one-week period.	All
<b>4.</b>	<b>Walk Programme</b>	
4.1	Please refer to the web site for upcoming walks, however there was a general discussion that followed regarding the membership and the statistic that only 60% of the members were enabled with email. There seemed to be no solution to this however it was agreed that the constitution will need to be updated to remove reference to written and postal notification particularly relevant to the Notice of AGM.	Note

4.2	Walk leadership was discussed and it was agreed that MS would write to all members to stress the importance of attracting/developing new walk leaders and to provide an update on the support available for example, the two training dates, the buddy system and a link to online training and support. Walk coordinators will be asked whether they are happy to have their contact details in the email as some potential leaders may prefer to contact walk coordinators in the first instance	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Reports from Officers</b>	
5.1	Chair	
5.1.1	Appendix 1-No further updates	
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	
	Appendix 2 – Colin voiced general discussion on the increased cost of mileage allowances and the impact on Walk programmes however this was felt to be nominal.	Note
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Foot Path Secretary</b>	
	Appendix 3 - No further updates	
<b>5.4</b>	<b>Membership Secretary</b>	
	Appendix 4 - It was agreed after discussion that the Constitution should be modified to reflect the use of email and the internet.  There seemed to be no solution to this however it was agreed that the constitution will need to be updated to remove reference to written and postal notification particularly relevant to the Notice of AGM. Neil Collie proposed that the ECR constitution should be amended/modified at the next AGM to remove 'information is available in writing' and replace it with 'available'	All
<b>5.5</b>	<b>Social Secretary</b>	
	Appendix 5 - Update	
	2 dates to be confirmed for the future are as follows. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geology Walk</li> <li>• Map &amp; Compass Practical Training</li> </ul>	Note
<b>5.6</b>	<b>Lost Ways</b>	
	Appendix 6 - No further updates	
<b>5.7</b>	<b>Social Media</b>	
	Appendix 7 -	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Actions from AGM</b>	
6.	None	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Any other Business</b>	
7.1	There is a 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Team Meeting on Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2023 and separates minutes will be issued.	



7.2	It was confirmed following investigation that the date of the 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary is 4 <sup>th</sup> October 1973 being the first meeting.	
7.3	CF to organise a survey to try and establish during a sample month just how many of our ECR Ramblers actually walked.	
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	
	21 <sup>st</sup> April 2023 @ 10:00 hosted by Maggie Swindells	



## Appendix !

**Chair Report                      Jan 2023**

**Prepared by                      Maggie Swindells**

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Happy New Year!

As this is my first report as Chairperson, I'd like to begin by thanking you all for all the work you do in your various roles for the committee. It certainly feels daunting

stepping into Jane's shoes but I'm very grateful for the support she's already given me and for the help and advice I know I can count on from you all. Jane and I had a

handover meeting last month and Gina, Jane and I also had a handover for the Social Secretary's role in December.

It took 'some time' to have the change of roles for Jane, Gina and me, acknowledged by Ramblers, but that seems to have been resolved. Thanks to Neil and Colin for emailing Ramblers on my behalf to confirm I was who I said I was!

### **Cheshire East AGM**

In November I attended Cheshire East's AGM. Two main points of interest were discussed:

1. A point had been made prior to the AGM that not all members had seen the constitution before it was discussed at last year's AGM. It was agreed that the current constitution would be made available to be viewed and commented on by all members in the area. It was agreed that the new constitution will be available to for all members to read at least two weeks prior to the next AGM when the plan is for the new constitution to be formally adopted. The new

Chair of Cheshire is John Peck.

2. It was agreed that each group would discuss, at their next meeting, three areas where the Cheshire East could work more closely together.

### **Walk Leaders**

Following concerns raised by Steve Hull about the lack of walk leaders for long walks I circulated a letter to all members asking for volunteers. We received a small response with two leaders volunteering to help. It transpired that the long weekend walker's programme, coordinated by John Gillman, did not have a problem. Their programme is running well.

Steve Hull is stepping down as midweek Long Walk Coordinator and I'd like to thank him for all his efforts securing walk leaders for that aspect of the programme. Anne Ball will be taking

on this role and I'm sure we'd all like to wish her every success. Thanks go to everyone who coordinators the walking programme and to those who lead the walks.

Two more Walk Leader Training dates have been booked. The 18 th April to share Walking Apps and a Walk Leader and Basic Navigation Training Day has been booked for the 24 th August. Gillian Kay has kindly agreed to lead the training and we'd be grateful for volunteers to help on the day. I'd be grateful if committee members, prior to the training, would read through the FAQs for Walk Leaders to see if we need to add any further points.

### **Walk Data**

Steve Hull has kindly agreed to continue to collate walk attendance data for ECR.

His report has been included in the papers at the **end of this report**.

### **Stroller Walks**

As agreed, the programme will be extended this year, starting in March and ending in November. Duncan Learmond has asked whether we'd be willing to run two joint Stroller Walks with the Canal and River Trust. They run wellbeing walks for members, and he felt two joint walks may boost the numbers.

### **Archive**

Jane and I have now collated all the electronically held documentation we can find for past AGMs dating back to 2014. Roger Fielding has kindly agreed to explore a way of allowing us to put files containing the documents under the archive tab on the website.

### **Emails**

We receive a number of queries from members who don't appear to be 'getting emails' from ECR. In an attempt to help I've put together a set of instructions which may help if we get asked again. Members can also contact Ramblers for assistance with this.

### **Sad News**

Ralph Atherton contacted me after the New Year to let me know that Veronica 'Vron' Poynton passed away in December following a short illness.

I didn't have the pleasure of walking with Vron but I understand from Ralph and Rosie that she was a much loved, regular strong long walker and I'm sure that those who knew her will be saddened by her passing.

Vron's funeral was held in Macclesfield at the crematorium on Monday 16th January.



## 50 th Anniversary

A meeting will take place on the 23rd of January to finalise some of the plans for the 50 th Anniversary Year. The Social Calendar looks varied and suitably celebratory!

Many thanks once again to everyone who makes ECR such a success group to walk

with.

Maggie Swindells January 9 th 2023



## Appendix 2

**Treasurers Report                      January 2023**

**Prepared by                                  Colin Finlayson**

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ECR Committee Meeting - Friday 20th January 2023

### Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance:

At 31/12/ 22 our balance stood at £7778.53

Financial activity since our last meeting (October 2022) has been busy due to the year-end social events that have been held.

All the necessary financial requirements were successfully accommodated.

My thanks to the event organisers for their diligence which made this busy social season a success once again.

Receipts from RA:

As reported verbally at the recent ECR AGM our first quarterly payment of £400.00 was received from RA in mid-November thus indicating that our Annual Budget for the year 22/23 had been accepted by RA.

Mileage Rates /Recce Charges:

An update on the impact of the new mileage rates on Recce charges will be tabled at the meeting.

Report Ends



### Appendix 3

**Footpaths Secretaries Report**

**January 2023**

**Prepared by**

**N Collie**

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#### **Footpath Secretary's Report to the Main Committee October to December 2022**

**Annual Survey of Paths.** Tony Battilana reports that we have four new volunteers to replace the Inspectors who have retired. He will try to accommodate all the requests for changes in Parishes and circulate an allocation list for 2023 in the coming weeks.

**Footpaths Committee.** The meeting planned for January 2023 has had to be postponed as a number of people were unable to attend at short notice. We hope to meet in February 2023. Minutes of the October 2022 meeting were circulated to Inspectors. Analysis of the 2022 footpath survey results has been completed and many of the 'newly-obstructed' paths have now been successfully dealt with. A proposal to waymark two attractive permissive paths which allow a very muddy section of North Rode FP 2 to be bypassed is being progressed and would require a contribution from our funds.

We continue to liaise with Brian Richardson who has restarted project work clearing vegetation on paths in Nether Alderley.

**Recycled Plastic Waymarking Posts.** We are keen to run a trial using these posts which we think will be more economic in the long-term as they will last much longer than wooden posts. A proposal is being prepared which would require a contribution from our funds.

**CEC Public Rights of Way Unit.** The PROW unit has recruited two new members of staff dealing with Path Diversions and Modification Orders. However, one member (out of three) of the Path Maintenance Team has been headhunted and has left.

**Lost Ways.** Our area co-ordinators continue to visit the locations of the 'worth-considering' paths which had been identified from earlier work, in order to draw up a short-list of those possible paths that would be valuable additions to the rights-of-way network.

Neil Collie

Footpaths Secretary. 13.01.23



**Appendix 4****Membership Report                      January 2023****Prepared by                                      Sue Munslow**

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The total membership figures remain very stable. The total is 591 and is the highest number over several years.

I have needed to be in touch with the National office several times recently as one of our members has shown up as having lapsed and they have been removed from the data base even though a direct debit had been paid last July. Another eight members have shown up as removing permission to receive emails. This is an error and I have been in touch with the National Office requesting that these are corrected.

Every year we have problems such as these. Sometimes, myself and Steve Hull who sends out the emails notice them. At other times members ask why they are not receiving emails.

The National Office do appear to answer the phone when contacted and are very willing to immediately correct the errors. Individual members should contact the National Office any time to check or correct details.

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## Appendix 5

### Social Events Report

### EAST CHESHIRE RAMBLERS SOCIAL CALENDAR 2023

#### Prepared by

Gina Thompson

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Many apologies for my absence from the meeting.

Keith's Sherry Walk was a great start to 2023 with 38 brave souls braving the wet weather which thankfully only lasted for the first 20 minutes or so of the walk. As always a great job was done by Lorraine and Melanie and all who attended enjoyed blowing the Cobwebs of 2022 away and enjoying the mince pies and sherry.

Andy Davies is again hosting a curry night in February this time at the Sangam in Heald Green.

March sees a return of a quiz night this year hosted by Steve Hull at the Macclesfield Tennis Club this was very well attended last year so I'm expecting it will be this year.

Stroller Walks also start in March this year a little earlier than previous years as they are becoming very popular.

Two navigation workshops are also planned for this year in April and August, one for exploring navigation apps and how to get the best out of them, the other is aimed at new walk leaders, thanks to Jane Gay and Gillian Kay for the effort that goes into these events.

We also have 2 weekends away in June and October thanks to the efforts of Melanie Davy and Ann Thompson. Melanie has organised a weekend in Llwynmawr in the beautiful Ceirog Valley.

Ann has chosen the Elan Valley in Mid Wales one of the most picturesque spots famous for the dams and reservoirs built in the 19th century to supply water to Birmingham.

We also have 2 visitor led walks Martin James Teggs Nose County Ranger will be leading a short walk in June followed in July by Elaine Taylor Following the legend of the Wizard around Alderley Edge.

Our 50th Anniversary events kick off in May with the very inventive 50km Anniversary walk thanks to Steve Hull, Nick Wild and Steve Osbourne. Followed by Anniversary picnic in July in Lyme Park. Culminating with our Anniversary Lunch at Davenport Golf club in October, organised by Maggie and I.

November if we have the energy sees the much anticipated return of a Ceilidh in Mottram Village Hall many thanks to Ann Thompson and Toni Battilana for organising this.

As always we have our AGM in November



Then in December we can look forward to our Long, Midweek, and Short walker Christmas meals.

Thanks again to everyone who is helping with these events, I look forward to enjoying many of them in this our 50th Anniversary year.

Gina Thompson

M 07843 914886 [gthompemail@gmail.com](mailto:gthompemail@gmail.com)



**EAST CHESHIRE RAMBLERS SOCIAL CALENDAR 2023**

Please see below our Social Events from the recent past and the planned events for the forthcoming 50th Anniversary Year. Very many thanks to everyone who has and is contributing to our events, without you this would not be possible. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to help or have an idea for an event.

Gina Thompson [gthompemail@gmail.com](mailto:gthompemail@gmail.com) M 07843 914886

<b>1st January 2023</b>	<b>'Keith's Sherry Walk' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Launch</b> organised by Melanie Davy and Lorraine Tolley
<b>Wednesday 8th February 2023</b>	<b>Indian Meal organised by Andy Davies</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b>	<b>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Quiz Night</b> organised by Steve Hull
<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023</b>	<b>Sharing Navigation Aids Workshop</b> organised by Jane Gay and Maggie Swindells
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b>	<b>Start of fortnightly Strollers' walking programme</b> organised by Maggie Swindells
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023</b>	<b>Start of evening walks</b> organised by Ralph Atherton
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023</b>	<b>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cumulative 50 Km Medium Walk Part 1 Gritstone Trail</b> Organised by Nick Wild/Steve Osbourne/Steve Hull
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023</b>	<b>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cumulative 50 Km Long Walk Part 2 Gritstone Trail</b> Organised by Nick Wild/Steve Osbourne/Steve Hull

<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023</b>	<b>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cumulative 50 Km Short Walk Part 3 Gritstone Trail</b> Organised by Nick Wild/Steve Osbourne/Steve Hull
<b>Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup> 2023</b>	<b>Weekend Away - Llwynmawr near Chirk North Wales</b> organised by Melanie Davy
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2023</b>	<b>A Walk with Martin James Teggs Nose County Ranger</b> organised by Jane Gay
<b>Sunday 2nd July 2023</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>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2023</b>	<b>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Picnic Lyme Park</b> preceded by a walks: stroller, short, medium and long organised by Steve Hull
<b>Thursday 24th August 2023</b>	<b>Basic map reading and walk leader Training</b> Organised by Maggie Swindells/ Jane Gay. Led by Gillian Kaye
<b>Saturday 9th to Sunday 17th September 2023 TBC</b>	<b>Bollington Walking Festival</b>
<b>Friday 29th September to Monday 2nd October</b>	<b>Elan Valley near Rhayader</b> Organised by Ann Thompson
<b>Saturday October 7<sup>th</sup> 2023</b>	<b>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch</b> organised by Gina Thompson and Maggie Swindells
<b>Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup> 2023</b>	<b>Ceilidh Mottram Village Hall</b> organised by Ann Thompson and Toni Battilana
<b>Saturday 18th November 2023 PROVISIONAL DATE</b>	<b>East Cheshire Ramblers AGM</b>
<b>November 2023</b>	<b>Cheshire East Area AGM</b>



<b>Saturday 2nd or 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023</b>	<b>Christmas Carol Short Walk</b> organised Jenny Bordoli
<b>December 2023</b>	<b>Mid-Week Christmas Meal</b> organised by Andy Davies
<b>December 2023</b>	<b>Weekend Christmas Meal</b> organised by Maggie Swindells
<b>December 2023</b>	<b>Long Walkers Christmas Meal</b> organised by TBC

**Appendix 6****Lost Ways Report****January 2023****Prepared by****Keith Anderson**

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I attended the December Zoom meeting for Don't Lose Your Ways. There are guides promised for those who wish to research and apply for DMMOs

An Introductory guide was launched at the meeting and is on Assemble, or I can forward it to anyone who wishes to have a copy.

The System has notified me of 4 people who have applied to be researchers in Cheshire East: -

Neil Collie

James de Santis - lives in Macclesfield and wants to try and establish a path up to Teggs Nose from Macclesfield which avoid the dangerous Macclesfield Old Road

James Platt who lives in Congleton and wishes to research 2 paths in Wybunbury. He is the footpath secretary for South Cheshire. He does not need help at this stage

Marie Roberts - lives in Bramhall. She has not responded to my introductory email.

I will send all 4 the updates/guides when they are issued.

Unfortunately, I cannot attend the zoom meeting on Monday 16th Jan, but I will receive the notes.

End of Report



## Appendix 7

**Social Media Report                      January 2023**

**Prepared by                                      Jennie Mellor**

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Jenny apologies however due to being in Gran Canaria and struggling with Wi-Fi issues prevent access to Facebook statistics





- Steve Hull Walk Statistics
- RA FAQ's