

	East Cheshire Ramblers Walk Coordinators' Meeting
	Date of Meeting – 2.00 pm Thursday 31st October 2024

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

Meeting called by Maggie Swindells

Attendees	Maggie Swindells Jane Gay John Galligan Anne Ball Paul Higinbotham Andy Davies Steve Hull Lorraine Tolley	MS Jane G John G AB PH AD SH LT	
Apologies	Dave Collorick Jane Collorick Ralph Atherton	DC JC RA	
In attendance	Melanie Davy	MD	
Distribution	All present plus DC, JC, RA		
Attachments	Appendix 1 & 2 (Walk numbers); Where to Access Support; Walk leader First Aid Kit & 4. Posting a Walk Description 241104		
1.	Welcome, Apologies & Matters Arising		
1.1	MS welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from the Colloricks and Ralph Atherton.		
1.2	Matters Arising Item 2.4 Posting walks on Instagram: Jennie Mellor investigated and although there is a way to post on Instagram, it is more complicated when it's a business account, so we are not pursuing this currently.		Note
1.3	Item 3.1 Snapshot Questionnaire. John G had offered to investigate what the Ramblers' "walking month" had consisted of/been designed to achieve, but after investigation decided it wasn't applicable to our Snapshot Questionnaire discussions. AB thought it might be useful to know the names of people who attend walks, but the general consensus was that leaders were reluctant to take registers		Note
1.4	Item 4.4 Uploading walks to Walks Manager: It is no longer a requirement for walk leaders to post walks on Walks Manager. Jennie Mellor is doing this for everyone. MS will add this to her AGM report.		MS
1.5	Item 7.1 Cancelling walks – Email has been sent to membership advising how to do this.		Note
1.6	Item 9.1 Written Risk Assessments. There is no longer any requirement for written assessments. MS will add this to her AGM report.		MS
2.	Walk Numbers		
2.1	SH had circulated a detailed report on walk numbers (attached) but highlighted 2 points: - Monday Medium walks are less popular than Thursdays. - There are decreasing numbers on long walks (mid-week and weekend).		Note

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2.2	John G noted that walks that were posted early got more people on them, often from other local groups. AB reported that her leaders were reluctant to post early due to weather. MS said it was worth telling leaders that it is easy to change walks. We should encourage people to post early on the proviso that they can make changes easily. MS will add this to her AGM report.	Coordinators MS
3.	Walks Manager - Updating/posting walk descriptions	
3.1	MS advised that although Jennie Mellor posts all the walks, she is working from the information leaders post on the noticeboard. Sometimes the information is fairly thin, and Walks Manager requires certain information to be included. It was agreed that walk coordinators should send out a reminder to their lists of leaders to make sure that their posted walks include all the necessary details, for example the need to bring refreshments. Leaders can be referred to "Posting a Walk Description" to check that they have included all the necessary details. This document can be found under the new Walk Leaders tab on the ECR website, point 4, (and is also attached to these minutes). The reminder could be sent out with the next call for leaders.	Coordinators
3.2	John G added that, if you include a gpx file in a walk description, you don't need to include as many details about the walk, although this was probably more pertinent to long walkers.	Note
4.0	Walks Programme – Successes/Improvements etc	
4.1	From January 2025, medium mid-week walks will reduce to one per week on alternate Mondays and Thursdays.	AD
4.2	Strollers: MS expressed gratitude to LT for taking over coordination. Walks run from March to November on alternate Wednesdays. This is alternated with short walks.	Note
4.3	Weekend short walks: Jane G said that numbers had increased significantly. There could be 20+ on a walk. However, leaders have not complained.	Note
4.4	Weekend Medium: PH said he was happy with attendee numbers, but could do with more leaders	Note
4.5	Mid-week Long: AB reported that she had only just filled the programme. Although attendee numbers were dropping, we were getting people from other groups. AB was hoping to affiliate them so they would get ECR emails.	Note
4.6	Weekend Long: Numbers attending are down this year. Last year we regularly got double figures. It helps if walks are posted earlier. AB and John G and trying to coordinate on leaders. Some people are very willing to lead multiple walks but some leaders were reducing their offering from 2 walks per programme to one. AB and John G were very grateful to people who led multiple walks but did not want the programme to have to rely on them.	Note
4.7	It was agreed that all walk coordinators needed to ensure their walk leader distribution lists were up to date.	Coordinators
4.8	MS requested walk coordinators to copy in Jennie Mellor (JM) when they send their quarterly/six monthly lists to Roger. This will enable JM to set up templates on Walks Manager (mellorjennefer@gmail.com)	Coordinators
4.9	MS thanked everyone for all the hard work they did in coordinating the programmes. Non ECR Ramblers are very impressed by our programme and how friendly people are.	Note

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5.0	Recording new Volunteers	
5.1	It was noted that everyone needs to be registered as a volunteer before they can start on-line training. AB can add people as volunteers. There will be no pressure to lead a walk even if you are registered and/or have done the training. MS suggested that all the walk coordinators did the training so they could speak with some authority. It was worth emphasising that it is not a test but training information. Link to training: https://www.ramblers.org.uk/support-us/online-training	Coordinators
6.	Cancelling a walk, especially at short notice	
6.1	See 1.5. Briefly, a cancellation is posted on the noticeboard in exactly the same way as posting a walk. MS and JM also receive an alert and cancel the walk on Walks Manager.	Note
7.	New Walk Leader requirements and resources 2024	
7.1	The ECR Website has a new tab "Walk Leaders" which includes lots of information and resources.	Note
7.2	Details on accessing support for volunteers is attached to these minutes	Note
8.	Walk Leader recruitment	
8.1	MS will watch Ramblers' latest webinar to see if there is additional useful information. MS has written to everyone this year about volunteering to lead walks.	MS
9.	Safeguarding Incidents	
9.1	There was only one incident this year. The procedure for reporting is: walk leader lets the secretary and chair know about the incident. They will send a link to the simple form for the walk leader to complete and send to Ramblers CO.	Note
10.	ECR Training	
10.1	ECR provided apps and first aid training this year. Other local groups are keen to do joint training with us.	Note
10.2	Due to the amount of training information on the Ramblers' website, ECR Training Team had decided not to run more walk leader training sessions. However, they would meet in March to discuss the possibility of registering potential leaders as volunteers and arranging for them all to do the mandatory training together with the Training Team, who could also explain how ECR could support them if they decide to lead and give general tips on leading for ECR.	ECR Training Team
10.3	There is now an advisory First Aid List on the Ramblers' website. The contents list covers all levels of walks so leaders should use their common sense to select what they think is appropriate for the terrain and weather. This is attached.	Note
11.	Weekends Away 2025	
11.1	At the AGM, Gina will ask for more support from people to help with events, coach trips and weekends away.	GT
12.	Walk Coordinator Contact Permissions	
12.1	MS will check with the Colloricks and Ralph if they are happy to have their emails listed on documents. MS will use her email for AD. The other coordinators are happy for their emails to be used	MS

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13.	Any Other Business	
13.1	Occasionally, Jennie Mellor finds it hard to identify walk leaders on the noticeboard. Please advise her if any leaders use a nickname. (mellorjennefer@gmail.com)	Coordinators
14.	Date of Next Meeting	
14.1	Monday 27 th October 2025 at 2.00 pm at Jane Gay's house.	Note

Meeting closed at: 15.45

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Appendix 1

Walk Numbers for 2021

Programme	LMW	LWE	MMW	MWE	SMW	SWE	EVE	STR
Jan to June								
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
Mean	8	8	10	10	15	13	8	9
Median	8	8	11	11	15	12.5	8	8
July to Dec								
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
Mean	9	10	11	7	15	13	9	7
Median	9	9	11	7	14	13	8.5	6

Walk Numbers for 2022

Programme	LMW	LWE	MMon	MThu	MWE	SMW	SWE	EVE	STR
Jan to June									
No. Walks	24	20	23	26	22	26	25	8	5
Max	16	13	14	19	15	31	46	12	15
Min	4	4	2	2	4	7	4	6	3
Mean	8	8	7	11	9	17	14	9	8
Median	8	8	8	11	9	16.5	12	8.5	8
July to Dec									
No. Walks	21	18	20	21	16	24	23	7	6
Max	15	15	15	20	17	33	27	11	13
Min	2	5	2	3	3	3	5	6	6
Mean	8	9	8	10	8	16	16	8	9
Median	7	9	8	9	8	15	16	8	9

Notes

Short weekend distorted by including New Year's day walk with 46 people.

Walk Numbers for 2023

Programme	LMW	LWE	MMon	MThu	MWE	SMW	SWE	EVE	STR
Jan to June									
No. Walks	18	24	14	24	23	26	24	8	7
Max	16	17	11	14	25	26	27	10	16
Min	3	5	3	3	3	6	3	3	3
Mean	8	12	6	8	11	17	13	6	8
Median	8	12	6	8	10	17	12	4	5
July to Dec									
No. Walks	22	19	14	16	18	25	24	7	8
Max	15	15	14	14	13	26	16	15	15
Min	3	1	4	3	2	3	3	4	3
Mean	8	10	7	7	7	13	10	8	7
Median	8	10	6	6	7	14	10	7	6.5

Walk Numbers for 2024

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Programme	LMW	LWE	MMon	MThu	MWE	SMW	SWE	EVE	STR
Jan to June									
No. Walks	22	22	11	15	21	21	24	4	7
Max	14	17	13	16	18	26	26	15	12
Min	2	4	5	2	2	7	5	2	5
Mean	8	10	9	9	10	15	13	9	8
Median	7	9	8	8	11	15	14	9	8
July to Dec									
No. Walks	16	16	6	12	16	12	15	7	9
Max	11	13	11	15	20	21	22	15	15
Min	2	5	2	3	3	9	9	5	5
Mean	7	8	5	7	12	15	15	10	9
Median	7	8	4	8	12	15	15	9	9

Notes

As decided by the coordinators meeting last year numbers for the New Year's Day Walk, coach trips and weekends away have not been included. There were 35 people on the New Year's Day Walk and on the coach trip the short, medium and long walks had 15, 15 and 11 walkers respectively.

The numbers on the Dolgellau weekend were: Long 6 and 12; Medium 18 and 4; Short 6 and 10.

The numbers for the Borrowdale midweek away were: Long 8 and 7; Medium 12 and 13; Short 8, 4 and 13.

Two walks where only the leader turned up have not been included.

No data is available for several midweek medium walks.

There look to have been an unusual number of cancellations in the first half year, probably because of the bad weather.

Summary of Walk Numbers Since 2010

Year	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24 1st	24 2nd
SMW	17	17	17	17	17	18	20	19	14	20		15	16	15	15	15
SWE	14	15	15	15	15	15	16	15	10	15		13	15	11	13	15
MMon													8	6	8	5
MMW	18	15	12	16	13	11	13	11	12	9		9				
MThu	-	9	11	12	11	13	12	12	10	9			11	8	9	8
MWE	12	11	11	12	12	9	9	9	10	9		8	9	9	10	12
LMW	15	14	12	13	13	12	14	12	9	10		9	8	8	8	7
LWE	12	11	12	11	12	10	11	10	13	12		9	9	11	10	8
EVE	9	11	11	14	12	15	11	12	11	7		8	9	7	9	10
STR									17	14		8	9	8	8	9
										Jan- Jun	Lost					

The average number of walkers on all the programmes held steady or increased slightly in the first half of the year except for a slight decrease on the Long Weekend walks. The second half of the year so far has been more mixed; both long walk programmes have resumed the long-term downward trend. The decline for the Monday Medium

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walks is probably not greatly significant as it is based on a small number of walks, although it does seem that the Thursday Medium walks are still more popular than the Monday walks.

There has been a general decline on numbers on walks over the years. This is particularly apparent for long and medium walks, probably because of our ageing membership. Long walks had reduced numbers post covid. Long weekend walks this year are now more popular than their midweek equivalents which reverses the situation in earlier years. We have lost a number of midweek long walkers and newer members seem to be keener on walking at weekends.

The mid 2010's saw a much larger number of people on evening walks than has been the case over the last few years. The numbers have picked up slightly over the last two years. The average hides the fact that some walks have been well attended and some very poorly attended.

Stroller walk numbers do not seem to have been much affected by the change from Fridays to midweek.

I can't explain the temporary drop in short walk numbers in 2018.

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Appendix 2

ECR Walk Coordinators Questionnaire 2024

1. Have you filled the July to December programme?

LMW Yes

LWE Just one date missing

MMW No

MWE No – 4 dates missing, one is Christmas Eve weekend, one is New Years Eve weekend and one is Xmas lunch at Davenport Golf Club, so it's not really a problem.

SMW Yes

SWE I have filled the July to December program except for the 21st and 28th of December. I must say I haven't put a great deal of effort into covering these two dates.

EVE One date not filled

STR Yes (July to November)

2. Did you fill the January to June programme?

LMW Yes

LWE again, just one missing

MMW No

MWE 4 dates missing, one was Church Stretton weekend and one was another weekend away. As above, not a major problem.

SMW Yes

SWE I did fill the January to June programme.

EVE See above as the evening programme is treated as a single programme for recruitment of leaders,

STR Yes (March to July)

3. How many different leaders have you got for July-December?

LMW 13

LWE 12

MMW 20

MWE 10

SMW 13

SWE 15 different leaders.

EVE 11

STR 8

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4. Are you relying on people leading multiple walks in one six (or three) month period? If so, please provide details with an indication of numbers.

LMW Yes. 8 people offered 2 walks (Roger Fielding, John Chen, Richard Higham, Mike Harding, Nick Brearley, Roger Jubb, Tony Battilana); 1 person offered 5 walks (Andy Garner). These numbers are for the whole period, including walks still to be led this year.

LWE Yes. Four of us have led multiple walks, with Rich leading 6 walks. See spreadsheet for details.

MMW Yes

MWE yes – in six month periods

SMW two people led two walks

SWE 7 have led 2 walks in the 6 month programme

EVE 3 leaders led two walks

STR 2 leaders led 2 walks each

5. Has it been more difficult than previously to get leaders?

LMW No, but it would have been if there weren't so many generously offering more than one walk.

LWE It isn't really a Yes No question and answer. Several long-standing walkers have dropped off the list this year and two of the younger leaders have had health issues. However the bigger concerns is leaders who would consistently offer two walks in the [6 month] period now only offering one walk.

MMW Definitely

MWE Up to now, it's been OK, however, I'm going to be minus one leader who can be relied on to lead a good number of walks, have had a couple of possibilities for recruits, but nothing firm this year.

SMW two people led two walks

SWE Haven't found it more difficult despite the fact I rarely walk at weekends but many of the leaders are long standing members. Suggest I would find it easier still if I walked more regularly

EVE No because of people leading multiple walks

STR No

6. How many walks are being led by non ECR members? Note that members must be registered with Ramblers as Walk Leaders.

LMW One. (Andy Garner is now the only non-ECR member leading, previous non-ECR leaders have changed home group to ECR or are now unable to lead)

LWE Only one this period

MMW None

MWE

SMW none

SWE All leaders are ECR members.

EVE All walks led by ECR members

STR None

7. Any other comments?

LMW no comment

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LWE We have had a lot of ramblers from other groups joining us this year. This may be due to a number of factors (such as neighbouring groups not offering long walks). Posting the walks early seems to help with this.

MMW No comment

MWE Still need to be on the lookout for more leaders, just about coping with the numbers we have, but could do with one or two more, have not replaced the two that we lost last year.

SMW no comment

SWE no comment

EVE Ralph does not read emails from HQ so does not know if people are registered as volunteers.

STR The move to Wednesdays, and the extended length of the programme, appears to have been successful.