

East Cheshire Ramblers

Documents for Committee Meeting 14th February 2025

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Report 1 Chair

prepared by Maggie Swindells

BELATED HAPPY NEW YEAR

A belated healthy and happy 2025 and a warm welcome to the new committee members, Margaret Kemble, Steve Hull and Terry Pritchard. We still have a vacancy for 'Lost Ways' which we will discuss under the Reports agenda item. My thanks, as always, for all you do to keep ECR running as smoothly as it does for members.

1. PAST MEMBERS

Sadly, four members have passed away since our last meeting; Peter Whitehead, Elisabeth Cresswell, Graham Beech and Jeff Miller. Their funerals offered an opportunity for family and friends to celebrate their lives and their families appreciated the attendance of ECR members. David Gylee sent me this message from Jan Whitehead which I'd like to share with you all.

"I saw Jan Whitehead this afternoon and she told me that she would like to thank ECR for all the support given at Peter's funeral on the 20th November in Macclesfield. She was pleased with the information that was sent out, resulting in people knowing about Peter who would otherwise have not been aware. There were approximately 12 in attendance representing Peter's Rambler's friends, but just to say that Jan is very grateful for all those who came along."

2. NEWS FROM CENTRAL OFFICE

General Council

General Council takes place on Saturday 5 April 2025 at the Birmingham NEC. John Peck, current Chair of Cheshire East Area, and I will attend on behalf of Cheshire East members. For the latest information on General Council, including the 2024 mid-year motions report, please visit ramblers.org.uk/about-us/general-council.

The Ramblers' 90th Birthday

The Ramblers have asked for contributions/stories over the last 90 years which we would like to share.

Ramblers are keen to read/receive this type of contribution:

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- When was your group or area founded? Do you have any photos from the early days?
- Has your group enjoyed a significant success over the years you would like to share? (For example, is there a local route that your group helped establish that is now enjoyed by the local community)
- Has your group played a key role in the King Charles III England Coast Path? Or similar?
- Do members of your group have personal stories about what the Ramblers have meant to them over the years
- e.g., meeting a partner or friends, finding a community after moving to the UK, improvements in health and wellbeing?

I'm sure we can add a few? I also feel it would be a nice idea to run an event for our members to celebrate the anniversary? Please email suggestions to chaireastcheshireramblers@gmail.com

Volunteer Resources

Here are the latest links to access the Volunteer resources which have moved from Assemble to the main Rambler's site.

Volunteer Resources and Reminders

Volunteer resources can be found at:

ramblers.org.uk/support-us/volunteer-resources

Since moving away from Assemble, all volunteer resources can be found through the Ramblers website.

Add new volunteers or new roles to existing volunteers by completing the **New Volunteer Role form**

Simply complete the form and your updates will be actioned within 24 hours

Your volunteers can be found on the Insight Hub:

Volunteer Selections: Views - Insight Hub

Area and group chairs, vice chairs, secretaries, membership secretaries and walks programme coordinators can check volunteers in their group or team via the Insight Hub.

Close a volunteer role by sending an email to rolesandtraining@ramblers.zendesk.com

Let us know the volunteer's:

- First name
- Last name
- Role(s) to be closed
- Area or group

Data Protection

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Ramblers have sent this reminder to groups and areas; “We all have a responsibility to look after the personal data of members and volunteers. It’s vital we all know how data should be managed and the steps we need to take to keep it safe. ***Please make sure you complete the short e-learning module, Data Protection***”.

The e-learning unit ‘How we look after data’ can’t be accessed. I’ve written to Ramblers to ask why.

A reminder to everyone about the importance of ‘Bcc’ members if you are distributing an email to a large group.

Walk Magazine

This winter, Ramblers are trialling a digital version of the winter edition of Walk magazine which landed in members’ email inboxes in November. This is a one-off trial, and the spring 2025 edition will arrive by mail as usual in late February. Ramblers are trialling the digital version of Walk as they believe this will reduce our carbon footprint by over 50 tonnes and save 17 tonnes of paper, helping protect the environment.

The digital version will also make it possible for to include video and interactive content. In order to receive the online magazine Ramblers’ members must have an up-to-date email address for us to send their magazine. **Please will all members check their Ramblers account to ensure their email is correct.**

Free Membership

Ramblers offer free membership for the following groups: refugees, asylum seekers and regular carers/guides. If a carer or guide accompanies one of our members on their walks, Ramblers can set up free membership for them. Ramblers will the need the member’s name, their membership number, the carer/guide’s name, address and email address. Free membership is available for 12 months and can be accessed via Anne Ball, ECR membership secretary. memsec.ecr@gmail.com. Anne will contact the relevant team who will then set up the free membership.

3. BOGUS EMAIL

In December I received an email from an ‘irate farmer’ regarding a post I had supposedly posted on the AudlemOnline site. The emailer used my Chair at East Cheshire email address and raised an issue which had been ‘reported to me by members’ about an electric fence across a footpath in Audlem. It was all entirely bogus but it took quite a lot of time to unravel. Cheshire East Area Chair and Secretary, the Ramblers and the police were informed. Steve Butterfield, Cheshire East Secretary, also contacted the farmer to explain

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that Ramblers would not raise an issue in this way. Cheshire East PRoW team have also been informed about the footpath problem.

The small team of administrators for the site eventually took the issue seriously and have agreed to amended their system to verify the email addresses of those posting on the online Chatbox.

Dear Maggie,

On behalf of the AudlemOnline editorial team:

Following our conversation, you may like to know that we have decided to change the way that chatbox entries to the website are made, so that it should not be possible in future to "spoof" somebody else's address. This will make life slightly more difficult for our users, who very much want us to retain the chatbox for their legitimate purposes, but it will protect all concerned from the type of mischievous entry that appeared last week.

This will inevitably take a few days to implement, but should then make the whole process more secure.

Regards

John Tilling

Alvar Jones

John Down

4. WEBSITE

Roger Fielding has let me know that his move to Yorkshire is imminent. As a result, he has passed on some of his routine actions to me; posting walks on the programme from the Notice Board, posting GPX routes and photographs, and setting up programme dates for all our walks. He has very kindly agreed to maintain his role but at a distance. Jennie and I will discuss how this work can be maintained going forward. It also raises the issue of who can work alongside Roger to shadow his invaluable website administration. This is an agenda item for discussion at the meeting.

5. OFFERS

I receive offers from time to time from event managers. This is an example. **Do we wish to pass them on?**

"Hey Cheshire East Ramblers

My name is Mike. I work as a host at a new hostel - Base Camp Snowdonia!

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Base Camp Hostels is a company that focuses on creating a comforting environment for adventurers to stay, with all the necessities you might need. We currently have our first flagship hostel in Betws-Y-Coed, with the next hostel in the Peak District on the way soon!

We help organise trips away for climbing/hiking, so given our location, we thought you might be interested in discussing what we can offer. Being where we are, in the gateway to Snowdonia (Eryri) we are in close walking distance for pubs, cafes and shops, while also being perfectly located for days out in the mountains.

Now that we are open, we are looking for trusted groups to come and stay with us; to try out our hostel and give us feedback so we can make improvements, to better the experience for our guests.

We are still working to add a few finishing touches to the hostel and so would love to get feedback from the types of people/groups we are looking to market towards. We are looking to create long-term partnerships with trusted groups so that they can continue to access discounts at all of our hostels to come.

Would love to get on a call and hear more about you and how we can collaborate.

Hope to hear from you soon,

*Michael Davies
General Manager at Base Camp Snowdonia*

P: +447841751368

E: mike@basecamphostels.com

W: <https://basecamphostels.com/>

Don't really know the best way to acknowledge this, I don't think that you need to send out a membership wide message, but perhaps it could be recorded in the minutes of the next Committee Meeting?"

6. TRAINING 2025

We ran some very successful training in 2024 and I propose we do the same this year. The small training committee will meet when Jane gets back from her trip to agree the dates and a programme.

In addition, I'd like to propose that we set up an annual meeting for Walk Leaders so that they can share ideas, concerns and training needs. It will also, I hope, send a message to

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them about how much we value the huge contribution they make to ECRs. I'd be grateful for some help setting this up.

7. RECCE EXPENSES

As agreed at the last meeting a small working group met in January to draw up a set of principles which clearly states ECRs position regarding recce expenses. The draft will be circulated with your papers for discussion at the meeting.

Report 2 Treasurer

prepared by Margaret Kemble

Overview

The balance of the ECR Account at 27/01/25 = £8409.09 Cr (£8472.42 Cr 30/9/24)

Items

Since the Accounts were signed off at year end 30.9.24, we have had receipts & claims for:

Quiz night 4/10/24 = £86.91 surplus

Borrowdale week away 7/10/24. Recce fees only = £17.58 surplus

It seems that 2 walk leaders did not claim recce expenses and so we remained in credit.

The matter of recce expenses has been discussed and guidance issued.

2 x Christmas meals at The Toby Inn & the Davenport Golf club = balanced

Rudyard lake talk 31/01/25 = £384 Cr

Bramhall Hall tour 7/2/25= £260. Cr

Ceilidh 15/11/25 = £50 room deposit paid. Non refundable.

The 2nd budget payment of £312. was received on 24/1/25.

No claims have yet been made to come out of the annual budget.

Margaret Kemble

27/01/2025

Report 3 Footpath Secretary

prepared by Louise Whittaker

October 2024 to January 2025

Resignation	Graham has stepped down from the FP Committee to focus on family matters. His knowledge and experience will be greatly missed. Pending a recruitment, Graham's parishes have been shared between other Committee members.
Inspections 2024	- An analysis of 2024 results is attached. An adverse trend over the last 2 years is evident. New class 'D' paths number 19; 5 of these are subject to a TCO [temporary closure order] mainly related to rivers/bridges. Suggests adverse trend could be weather related. - Launch of 2025 inspections expected March/April.
Potential Diversion	ECR has been contacted by a farmer in parish of Great Warford. He has invited ECR to visit to discuss a diversion he is considering to join the ends of two paths so walkers could just cross a lane rather than walk down a dangerous lane.
Database out of Date	FP Database has not been updated since 2020. Affects diverted FP's. Updating is complex. Neil reaching out to CEC to understand their updating process and see if that might help ECR.
Meeting with PROW	Face to face meeting with Nicola Lewis-Smith [PROW Manager] scheduled for 4 th March. Louise; Neil, and Gillian to attend from ECR/FP Committee.
Pathwatch 2	Pathwatch 2 is not being progressed. Charlie Bigely has advised developing the app is more complex than at first realised. Neil held a meeting on 3 rd February with Charlie [and Roger] to explore if the ECR Database concept might be of value.
Area Committee	Neil has organised an area meeting for 17 th February bringing together footpath secretaries from ECR, Congleton & South Cheshire Ramblers.
E-Working Space	Discussions & exploration of options on-going.

LW 2nd February 2025

2024 Summary of Inspection Outcomes

Data is extracted running reports in the ECR footpath database using the time period; 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024.

Status of Paths across the last 4 years [%]

	A	B	C	D	C + D
2021	71.8	21.1	4.1	2.5	6.6
2022	71.4	21.1	4.3	2.9	7.3
2023	71.4	19.6	4.7	3.3	8.0
2024	70.8	19.7	5.4	3.9	9.3

Key Message

‘C’ and ‘D’ increased in 2023 and again in 2024. Suggests a worsening trend.

Status of Paths across last 4 years [Numbers]

	A	B	C	D	C+D
2021	930	273	53	33	86
2022	925	274	56	38	94
2023	925	254	61	43	104
2024	918	255	70	50	120

Note: As of end January 47 paths are ‘D’ status. 3 have been resolved.

Paths Newly Classified ‘C’ or ‘D’ in 2024

Number of New ‘C’s	Number of New ‘D’s
35	19

Key Message

Possibly an increased focus on C status paths alongside D status may help to stem the worsening trend.

Focus on ‘D’ status paths

New ‘Ds’ – Paths Given ‘D’ status in 2024

- 19 paths newly classified ‘D’ in 2024. Marginally less than in 2023 [21].

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- In 2024 some inspectors reclassified paths not following the definitive line as 'D' in accordance with the guidance document. This added 2 paths to 'D' classification.
- 5 issues have warranted a Temporary Closure Order mainly due to river/bridge issues.

Total Number of Paths 'D' status

- Total number of paths at D = 50
- 19 new Ds in 2024. Marginally less than in 2023 [21].
- Carry over from 2023 = 6.
- Number carried over from before 2023 [by subtraction] = 25

Faults – Top 3 [2024]

B	C	D
Waymarking / 92	Stile / 23	Obstruction / 15
Stile / 74	Fingerpost / 20	Vegetation / 10
Fingerpost / 73	Vegetation / 12	Bridge / 6
Vegetation / 54		

Report 4 Membership

prepared by Anne Ball

Membership Numbers

At 2nd February 2025 there are 610 Ramblers on the East Cheshire membership list, 596 with East Cheshire as their home group and 14 members affiliated to ECR (maintaining their home group elsewhere). This is an increase from 1st November 2024 when the total ECR Ramblers stood at 601, including 12 affiliated members.

Potential New Members

Welcome letters with details about our walks are sent out to new members as and when their names appear on the Ramblers database. In addition, it is often helpful to contact potential walking members before they become members to provide them with information about our walks and our group, and to make them feel welcome and encouraged to join. If someone contacts the Membership Secretary through the contact page, then an email conversation is started and the potential member provided with specific answers to their questions as well as general information. But only a minority use this route; it would be useful when anybody becomes aware of a potential member, if they could ask them if they would like to provide their contact details, which could then be sent to the Membership Secretary (Anne Ball). This particularly applies to walk coordinators and leaders.

Welcome Letter for New Members

This is continually updated as and when necessary. The latest additions include links that were recently sent out in a Ramblers email explaining how to add ICE information to iPhones and Android Phones.

A previous addition to the Welcome Letter was an attachment with information about receiving ECR and general Ramblers' emails. However, about a quarter of new members have been joining without giving permission for emails and this general information about unsubscribing/subscribing hasn't usually been enough for new members to realise that they won't receive ECR emails. New members (who haven't given consent) are now advised, in the personalized cover email sent with the welcome letter, of the implications of not giving email permission.

We continue to contact established members who unsubscribe from Ramblers emails and who may not realize that that they will then not receive ECR emails. We are pleased to see that the number in this category has decreased.

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Membership Support Role

This role was registered with Ramblers last year to allow Steve Hull direct access to the Ramblers database, streamlining the updating of the ECR email distribution list. At the 2024 AGM Steve was elected as Secretary and he is continuing his previous email communications duties, incorporating these within his role as Secretary

Thanks go to Steve for his help and advice last year, and his continuing work with communications.

Walks Programme Contact Details

The quarterly Walks Programme emailed to members has in the past had some leaders' telephone contact details included. Recently a member pointed out that the telephone number included for them was an old number no longer in use. Nowadays, not many walk details are available before the programme is sent out, so there is no information available about contact details. The details in the programme are therefore currently historical. In any case, only a minority of leaders eventually provide contact details.

The question arises whether it is useful or practical to include telephone contact details here at all. For details to be up to date in an emailed programme they would have to be obtained before every programme was issued, which would be time consuming. Leaders who wish to give contact details can and do include them when they post their walk descriptions.

This issue is put forward for discussion under AOB.

Report 5 Social Secretary

prepared by Gina Thompson

This is the first report of the year, however before I begin on 2025 I must review the Christmas Lunches of 2024. The weekend lunch took place on Saturday 7th December at Davenport Golf Club. The food was delicious and very generous in portion size, the service was also excellent 25 Ramblers attended. I am hoping to attract more people next time and so we will be offering a choice of 2 or 3 courses, as I understand many would prefer a 2-course meal. The midweek lunch which took place on 19th December at The Legh Arms and was attended by 39 Ramblers, here there was choice of 2 or 3 courses, the food was enjoyable and the cost is less as the main course is a carvery. Everyone enjoyed it and Melanie will be booking here again.

So now let's turn our attention to 2025 and as always the first event of the year **Melanie and Lorraine's Sherry Walk** 1st January which was attended by 27 of us. Despite the terrible rain of the preceding days we had a relatively dry walk and a great way to start the year. Many thanks to Melanie and Lorraine for not only leading the walk but supplying the sherry and mince pies from their own pocket.

Friday 31st January "Rudyard Lake its History and its People" a talk by Ray Perry Chair of the Lake Trust: I think it is fair to say that it was a great success, 52 people attended the Tennis Club to listen to Ray who is a very interesting knowledgeable and friendly speaker. Between the voluntary contributions and a surplus on the evening we have been able to donate £150 to The Rudyard Lake Trust. There is much more Ray could tell us about the Lake so we may invite him back.

Saturday 1st February Benita Kassar led a short walk around Rudyard Lake. Ray Perry joined us for half the walk and was happy to share his knowledge of the Lake and surround as we walked.

Bramall Hall Guided Tour 7th February: This is our next event; we have 25 people booked I will report on this at the next committee meeting.

Music Night with Susan Mayes 14th March: We. Have already sent out the first advert for this and I am happy to report that within 2 days we have 10 people signed up. I am hopeful that this will be well supported by club members as Susan is one of us!

The next events following on for the first half of the year are:

Industrial History of Marple Walk with Judith Wilshaw 11th April

Ramble with a Ranger 26th April

Coach Trip to Clitheroe (Forest of Bowland) 10th May

People and Places Guided Walk of Knutsford 23rd May

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Weekend away Ilkley 13th-15th June

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Report 6 Lost Ways

No report as there is currently no one responsible for Lost Ways

Report 7 Social Media

prepared by Jennie Mellor

For the period ending 6th January 2025

Activity is increasing overall on Facebook. It has been great to see some of the long walkers adding photographs.

There isn't a great deal of change over the last few months, although as expected activity increased over the Christmas period.

As always a huge thank you to the photographers, walkers and those leaders that post their walks on Facebook.

ACTIVITY OVER THE LAST 28 DAYS TO 6th January 2025

Discovery

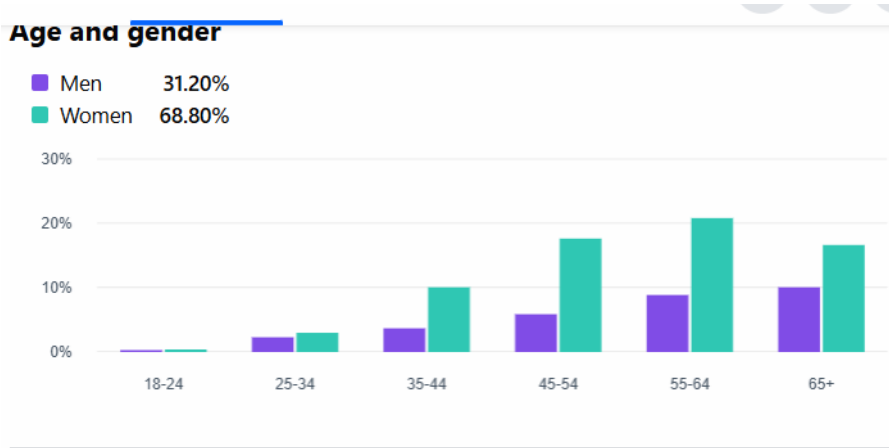
 Post reach	1,345
 Post engagement	1,280
 New Page likes	3
 New Page followers	12

Interactions

 Reactions	360
 Comments	18
 Shares	31
 Photo views	504
 Link clicks	60

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Location	Towns/cities		Countries	
Macclesfield			167	
Stockport			73	
Wilmslow			50	
Manchester			39	
Crewe			38	

Report 8 Emailing

prepared by Steve Hull

Currently 330 people are subscribed to our emails which are sent out using Mailchimp. I now have access to the Ramblers membership database for ECR and aim to update the Mailchimp list each month and report the changes to the membership secretary.

Sent Messages 2019-2024

2019 – 17 (September to December)

2020 – 20 (COVID year with only one message sent between March and August)

2021 – 40

2022 – 51

2023 – 66

2024 – 58

As of January 13th only one message has been sent out this year.

Recent messages

Figures in brackets indicate the percentage of recipients recorded as having opened the emails. This is not entirely accurate as some people are recorded as having opened emails so quickly that it must be done automatically.

Walks Programme for the First Quarter 2025 (74)

Funeral Arrangements for Graham Beech (69)

Dates for Your Diary in 2025 (73)

Christmas Greetings (76)

Elisabeth Cresswell (81)

Talk on Rudyard Lake Friday 31st January 2025 (76)

Graham Beech (83)

Date for your Diary - Weekend Away – Clarification (69)

Date for your Diary (73)

Weekend Away in Kirkby Stephen September 2025 (73)

Jeff Miller (81)

Reminder - Weekend Christmas Lunch Saturday 7th December (69)

Papers for Cheshire East Area AGM (71)

Notice of East Cheshire Ramblers AGM (74)

Peter Whitehead (79)

Midweek Christmas Meal 19th December (72)

Group and Area AGMs 2024 (71)

Weekend Christmas Lunch Saturday 7th December (73)

Michael Jackson (81)

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Christmas Lunches (74)

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Report 9 Walk Numbers 2024

prepared by Steve Hull

Walk Numbers for 2024

Programme	LMW	LWE	MMon	MTh u	MWE	SMW	SWE	EVE	STR
<i>Jan to June</i>									
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
<i>July to Dec</i>									
No. Walks	26	24	11	17	20	24	23	7	10
Max	16	16	11	16	20	21	22	15	15
Min	2	5	2	3	3	8	7	5	5
Mean	8	9	5	9	12	14	15	10	9
Median	8	9	4	8	12	15	15	9	9

Notes

As decided by the coordinators meeting in 2023 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 New Year Day walk in 2025 had 27 people despite the floods.

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
SMW	17	17	17	17	17	18	20	19	14	20		15	16	15	15
SWE	14	15	15	15	15	15	16	15	10	15		13	15	11	14
MMon													8	6	7
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
MWE	12	11	11	12	12	9	9	9	10	9		8	9	9	11
LMW	15	14	12	13	13	12	14	12	9	10		9	8	8	8
LWE	12	11	12	11	12	10	11	10	13	12		9	9	11	9
EVE	9	11	11	14	12	15	11	12	11	7		8	9	7	10
STR									17	14		8	9	8	9
										Jan-June	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 was more mixed; both long walk programmes have resumed the long-term downward trend. The decline for the Monday Medium 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.

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The average hides the fact that some walks have been well attended and some very poorly attended. Several evening walks were cancelled in the first half of the year.
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.

Notes of Expenses Sub-committee Meeting

Attendees

s

Maggie Swindells MS	Chair
Margaret Kemble MK	Treasurer
Gina Thompson GT	Social Secretary
Melanie Davy MD	Committee member
Steve Hull SH	Secretary
Colin Finlayson CF (Items 1 to 3 only)	Past Treasurer

1.	Apologies None Meeting started at 11.05	
2.	Context - what has been the process in the past CF provided a summary of current ECR practice on expenses. This has been that events should be self-funded, although the aim is that taken over a year events should not make a loss. There has been a limit of £10 per person to cover recce expenses on weekends away; for coach trips the recce expenses are covered by the overall charge made to members. The mileage rate has recently been raised from 28p to 45p in accordance with Ramblers national guidelines and HMRC rules. Expenses can only be claimed for recce trips for special events, not for the normal walks programme. GT pointed out that this was meant to cover all vehicle running expenses and suggested that ECR should pay petrol costs only. Average fuel costs were currently estimated at 23p per mile for 2 litre cars. SH suggested reverting to the 28p per mile rate. This was agreed. MD wondered if the expected money (in the region of £250 to £400 per year) received from Ramblers Holidays could be used to subsidise recce expenses. It was agreed that this funding could be used to offset small deficits if required.	

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	It was agreed that members who only wished to attend a walk on a planned weekend away/coach trip should be charged a pro rata recce fee. There was general discussion about publicity for events and on whether event walks should be restricted to ECR members. It was agreed that the event would only be publicised on the ECR website and not the main Ramblers website. It would also be emailed to members, but walk details would only be circulated to those who had booked on the event. The ECR online walks programme would indicate how members who only wished to attend a walk could access further information from the organiser/s.	
3.	Current concerns The main current concern was that recce expenses should be kept to an affordable level both for ECR and participants in events.	
4.	Draft policy The meeting amended the ECR policy document on expenses drafted by MS following the discussions earlier in the meeting. The revised version is attached. It was decided to put a maximum limit of £10 on recce expenses for the time being. This will be helped by limiting mileage payments to 28p and by asking people coming on walks but not coming for the full event to pay a reduced recce fee.	Action: all to review document .
5.	Next steps MD will draft wording for information to be put on the on-line walks programme concerning members wishing to go on walks run as part of other events for which there is a charge.	Action: MD
6.	A.O.B. Discussion of gifts to long serving members was deferred to the next full committee meeting.	Action: MS to add agenda item.
	The meeting closed at 12.15.	

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Draft Rules for Expenses Claims

The following guidance has been agreed by East Cheshire Ramblers and it is based on the Ramblers Guidance which was developed following discussions held with Area and Group volunteers, and in consultation with the Area Treasurer Sounding Board.

In order to keep events affordable we have set mileage expenses at 28p a mile and recce costs for coach trips/weekends away will be limited to a maximum of £10 per person.

The following principles will be applied:

1. In principle all events, weekends away, coach trips must be self-funded and must include any costs e.g. recce costs.
2. Event organisers, who plan a coach trip/weekend away or major event where expenses claims are due to occur, must discuss this with the ECR Treasurer before advertising the event or incurring any costs.
3. ECR will reimburse walk leaders for walk recces which are undertaken as part of a weekend away, coach trip or major event. Travel expenses will be paid at a rate of 28p per mile plus parking costs where relevant.
4. Apart from exceptional circumstances, ECR will only pay one recce expense claim per route for each leader.
5. Where possible walk leaders should share travel arrangements to recce walks to reduce costs.
6. For holidays/weekends away ECR will not reimburse the cost of accommodation if walk leaders choose to stay overnight as part of their recce (i.e. walks involving one or more overnight stops)
7. All claims must be based on actual expenses incurred
8. If a member wants to attend a walk on an event, there will be charge towards recce expenses.