

Stockport Ramblers AGM Meeting Minutes

19th November 2025

19:00 – 21:00

The Alma Lodge, 149 Buxton Road, Stockport, SK2 6EL

Attending Jane Balman Roger Hubbard Anthony Blockley Sarah Hubbard Angie Bryant Hilary Lowe Duncan Challen Julia Mansfield Liz Dawson Angela Miskell Derek Downes Raj Parmar Jane Downes Theresa Russell Phil Featherstone Dave Sidgwick Roy Gatley Tracey Whitmore Jim Horan Lesley Williams Margaret Horan Christina Williamson Rita Horgan Peter Worsley Diana Horrocks	Apologies Sue Adamson Douglas Leggat Christine Bell Helen Leggat David Berry Steven Ridge Moira Bloomfield Gwen Sidgwick Cindy Clarke Elaine Stafford Edgar Ernstbrunner Peter Stafford Peter Giles Anne Whitehead Phil Hayward Patsy Kane
1. Welcome, introduction and apologies. LW welcomed everyone and thank them for attending and introduced everyone to the flip chart and post it notes for offering ideas and suggestions for the committee to explore. A moment was taken to remember those we have lost over the past year: Elaine Bates; Alan Hart; Barry Madden and Geoff Snowdon.	LW
2. Review minutes from previous meeting. a. Agreed to be a fair and accurate record of proceedings, proposed and seconded. b. Matters arising - Vacancy of Chair and Secretary positions. Both positions were, with the agreement of the Area Chair, filled in March 2025 by the only two candidates to apply following an email to the group in November 2024 detailing the intention of the caretaker Chair and Secretary to stand down.	ALL
3. Committee Annual Reports See Appendix 1. Comments from Attendees Membership Secretary Report Jim Horan commented that on the membership numbers graph the total number of members split by male and female did not add up to the total number of members in the group. The Membership Secretary explained that the figures were taken directly from the Ramblers Insight Hub on the website and there was a section of the membership that had not given information regarding gender. Treasurer Report Angela Miskell asked if the group receive money from the Ramblers for each member. The Treasurer said yes, we do.	Committee

Walks Coordinator Report

Duncan Challen suggested that walking further afield in other Manchester areas eg. Rochdale might be contributing to our members leaving us to join another group in another area. The Membership Secretary commented that there can be many reasons why people leave a group and these have been discussed at length, but it is not actually known why people leave the group. Historically our group has walked across many different areas and the numbers on walks have been greater than they are now.

Action: The Membership Secretary will review the Insight Hub to see if there is any information specific to why people leave and if or why they move to other groups.

In response to data presented about distance travelled to get to walks, Pete Worsley suggested if walk leaders add the distance from Stockport centre to the walk start in their walk description, maybe this would encourage more people to attend the further afield walks.

Action: Walks Coordinators to develop this idea further at next committee meeting.

AB

DH/JM/LW

4. Election of Officers and Committee

The following nominations were received prior to the meeting.

Position	Nomination	Proposer	Seconder
Chair	Lesley Williams	Roy Gatley	Julia Mansfield
Treasurer	Theresa Russell	Tracey Whitmore	Lesley Williams
Secretary	Angie Bryant	Sue Adamson	Roy Gatley
Membership Secretary	Angie Bryant	Robert Niblock	Mike Fallon
Walks Co-ordinators • Tuesday Long • Tuesday Short • Saturday • Sunday • Wednesday evenings	Diana Horrocks Lesley Williams Julia Mansfield VACANT VACANT	Julia Mansfield David Sidgwick John Bamford	Lesley Williams Sue Adamson Diana Horrocks
Social Secretary	Christine Bell	Fran Chambers	Keith Chambers
Footpath Officers	Phil Featherstone Edgar Ernstbrunner	Peter Worsley Julia Mansfield	David Sidgwick John Bamford
Webmaster	Christine Bell	Rita Horgan	Jane Balman
General Committee	VACANT		

All were elected unanimously.

Posts still vacant – Sunday walks coordinator, Wednesday evening coordinator. Chair informed the meeting that walks coordinators do not need to be a walk leader but to walk on the day they are coordinating is helpful in asking for walks to be submitted. They also do not need to be on the committee. Anyone who is interested in the walks coordinator positions are invited to speak to the current walks coordinators for more information.

Post meeting note: Tracey Whitmore volunteered to become Wednesday evening walks coordinator.

LW

5. Appointment of Independent Examiner Jim Horan offered to fill this role. Hilary Lowe questioned the choice as Jim is a member of Stockport Ramblers so might not be considered independent. Action: Treasurer to see the Charities Commission website and to contact Ramblers to clarify who can and cannot be an independent examiner for the accounts. Action: Chair to ask at the next Area Executive meeting 12th January 2026. Action: Secretary to feedback to the group with response. Jim Horan appointed for year ending September 30th 2025 and year ending September 30th 2026 subject to approval by Area and Ramblers – voted in unanimously.	ALL TR LW AB ALL
6. AOB a. Margaret Horan asked for clarification about best practice if someone with mental health problems becomes ill during a walk and wishes to leave the walk. This comes after an incident described by Margaret where a person on their first walk with the group exhibited signs of mental distress and asked to be taken back to the start. Another walker escorted the person back alone. Margaret expressed concerns about the safety of this and asked for guidance. The walker involved commented that at the time he didn't think about the safety aspect as the individual concerned seemed to have recovered but on reflection it would have been safer to have another member with him. It was agreed that in such situations 2 members should escort an unwell person back to the walk start. Action: to be included in the walk leaders training sessions. b. Liz Dawson asked the group to consider offering car sharing for walks. The secretary reminded the meeting that the membership was asked to vote on this issue and it was rejected, but this was some years ago and maybe now the idea could be revisited. Diana Horrocks expressed her opinion that we should be helping the environment where possible and said it might be possible to arrange some walks from the Hazel Grove Park and Ride car park where car sharing could be offered to gauge interest. Other members commented that people do already arrange car sharing privately via Facebook and WhatsApp; people might be reluctant to give a lift to a stranger; because walk places are not pre-booked there is now way of knowing who would turn up wanting a lift. Action: to be discussed at a future committee meeting.	ALL DH/JM/LW Committee
7. Next AGM. Action: Date to be confirmed.	Committee
8. Closing Remarks Chair thanked the committee and thanked everyone for attending.	LW
Meeting Closed 20:30	

Appendices

Appendix 1 Committee Annual Reports.

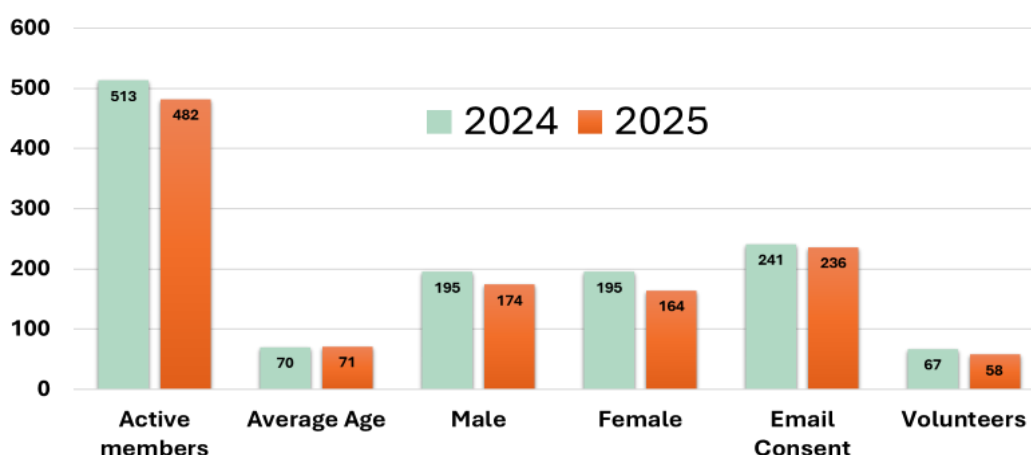
Stockport Ramblers Committee as of 30th September 2025

Chair	Tuesday Long Walks Coordinator
Lesley Williams	Diana Horrocks
Group Secretary	Tuesday Short Walks Coordinator
Angie Bryant	Lesley Williams
Group Vice Secretary	Wednesday Evening Walks Coordinator
Christine Bell	Lesley Williams
Treasurer	Saturday Walks Coordinator
Theresa Russell	Julia Mansfield
Membership Secretary	Sunday Walks Coordinators
Angie Bryant	Lesley Williams
	Julia Mansfield
Footpaths Officers	Social Secretary
Phil Featherstone	Christine Bell
Edgar Ernstbrunner	
Facebook Administrator	Webmaster
Diana Horrocks	Christine Bell

Membership Secretary Annual Report September 2025

Our overall membership had decreased by 31 from 513 to 482 between the end of September 2024 and the end of September 2025. Of these just 58 have a volunteer role within the group, compared to 68 in the previous year. The average age of our members remains essentially unchanged at 71 years.

Around half of our members have not given consent for us to contact them. This means they do not receive any information from us about our activities except for the AGM.



Compared to the other 9 Manchester groups our membership has decreased the most, by 31, closely followed by Oldham who have lost 29 and Bury who have lost 14. Only Trafford have increased their membership to any significant degree, by 35. All the other groups have maintained a steady numbers of members.



This doesn't mean we haven't recruited any new members; we have and have also received 35 requests for more information about our group since March, including enquiries about the walks and social events we offer and about how to join and follow us on social media.

With this in mind, two information leaflets have been produced, both adapted from existing Ramblers leaflets to make them specific to Stockport Ramblers. They are sent to anyone who enquires and to new members who give permission to be contacted.

RAMBLERS Stockport

Welcome to Stockport Ramblers

Hello

My name is Angie Bryant, Secretary of our group, and I want to welcome you to Stockport Ramblers. We are one of the largest walking groups in the Greater Manchester area and offer a variety of walks of different distances and difficulty as well as a program of holidays and social events throughout the year for our members.

Our walks are listed on our Walks Program which you can access by searching online for Stockport Ramblers. Here you will find the distance, level of ascent (how much uphill there is) and difficulty as well as a description of the walk and walk leader contact details.

Our regular walks include

- Tuesdays (alternating on a weekly basis)
- 4-6 mile easy/leisurely, mostly flat, walk ending with an optional pub lunch.
- 9-12 mile moderate to difficult walk usually with uphill, sometimes steep, sections. A good level of fitness and experience of hill walking is required.

Wednesday 7pm to 9pm (May 1st to end of August only) 4-5 mile easy/leisurely walk, often with optional pub at the end.

Saturdays

- 9-12 mile moderate to difficult walk usually with uphill, sometimes steep, sections. A good level of fitness and experience of hill walking is required.

Sundays

- 6-9 mile easy / leisurely / moderate walk can be flat or hilly (see walk description).

Special event walks may also be offered, such as our trip to the caves and mines under Alderley Edge this year.

Our Social events are a great way to spend time with like-minded people and meet new friends.

Throughout the year our dedicated social team work hard to arrange Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter social events such as...

- Weekends away including a group meal in different areas of England and Wales such as The Lake District, Yorkshire, Shropshire, Llandudno and Anglesey to name but a few.
- 'Socials' where everyone can catch up over a meal after a walk.
- And of course, the highlight of our winter social program our Christmas meal.

Opportunities with Stockport Ramblers.

We are always looking for new volunteers to join our committee, help with planning weekends away, check and maintain local footpaths and lead walks.

Keeping you in touch

As well as Email we have separate public and members' only Facebook pages, and a members' only WhatsApp group where we share latest information about walks, social events and post photos and chat to other members. If you would like any further information please contact me at stockportramblerssecretary@gmail.com

The Ramblers Association is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. Company registration no. 445495. Registered office: England & Wales no. 1085777. Scotland no. SC20495.

RAMBLERS Stockport

You can join us on up to 3 walks membership free before deciding if you want to join The Ramblers. If you do become a paying member you can walk with any Ramblers group in England and Wales for no extra charge, just take your membership card with you.

Stockport

Before the walk

Read the walk details and select one that you will enjoy and feel you can manage. Don't overstretch yourself!

Walk Grades

- Leisurely/Easy 4 - 5 miles
- Leisurely/Easy-Moderate 6-9 miles.
- Medium pace/Moderate 10-12 miles good level of fitness and experience of hill walking required.
- Strenuous 13 or more miles or with steep ascents. Above average level of fitness and experience of hill walking essential.

You do not need to book but if you have questions about the walk use the contact details in the walks description to contact the walk leader directly.

Check the weather forecast and dress for the weather. Lightweight layers are best. Sturdy boots or walking shoes and a lightweight raincoat are always recommended. Jeans are not suitable.

In autumn/winter/early spring bring an extra fleece, warm hat, gloves, spare socks and a hot drink.

In summer sun tan lotion, insect repellent and lots of water are a good idea.

High energy snacks help to keep you energised.

If you're not sure what to bring get in touch

At the start of the walk

Arrive in plenty of time. The start time stated is the time we leave to start the walk.

If you've never walked with us before, introduce yourself to the walk leader.

Tell us who to contact in case of an emergency – ask the walk leader for an In Case of Emergency (ICE) card or put your emergency contacts in your phone.

Let the walk leader know if you have a health condition that may impact your walk or be relevant in case of an emergency. We will always respect your privacy.

During the walk

- Always follow the instructions of the walk leader and be aware that plans may change as our walk leaders adapt to changing conditions on the day.
- Leave no-one behind and respect the pace of the group.
- Let us know if you're struggling at any point; we're here to help.
- Follow the Countryside Code.
- Leave no trace.
- Be kind and considerate to other people in the group and those we meet along the way.
- Have fun!

After the walk

Let us know how you enjoyed the walk. We would love to hear your stories and feedback.

As well as welcoming new and prospective members we have also created regular Newsletters to keep our existing members up to date with committee activities and initiatives. A Newsletter has been and will continue to be produced and emailed to members after every committee meeting.

RAMBLERS Stockport

Newsletter No. 3: "Walking will take you places"

In the first 9 months of this year, **29 walk leaders** led more than **1250 walkers** on **123 walks** over a total distance of **949 miles**, which is equivalent to walking from Stockport to Lake Garda, Italy!

Many thanks to the 40 people who responded to our survey about walk leading.

Key reasons highlighted for not leading walks included, lack of confidence, not knowing any walks, other commitments, new to walking and/or the group.

Suggestions to encourage new leaders include, buddy system, potential walk ideas, training, getting to know more people.

Based on the feedback we are creating a resource package and will hold a walk leading workshop in January (17th) for anyone interested in becoming a walk leader. Details to follow.

All walk leaders from 1st Jan 2026 will need to have self-certified or have completed Ramblers defined training.

We will hold a walk leader training session for all existing walk leaders who have not yet self-certified or completed the on-line training.

The session will be held on **Saturday 22nd November** at Poynton Civic Centre. We will cover all the elements needed for certification during the session.

First Aid Awareness Training

We have hosted two sessions welcoming 21 ramblers from across Manchester.

If you have one of the Group's First Aid kits can you please take it with you on all Stockport Ramblers walks, even if you are not the walk leader. Hopefully we will never need to use any of them, but in an emergency the more we have with us the better.

If you regularly lead walks for us and don't have a first aid kit please let Lesley, Diana or Julia know.

Please let Angie know if you need a "In Case of Emergency" (ICE) Card. Keep it in your rucksack, so first responders will know who to contact in event of an emergency.

Did you know...

Our amazing team of Footpath Checkers have surveyed 65 Public Rights Of Way since May.

Well done and Thank You!

Keeping in touch couldn't be simpler...

Join our members' only WhatsApp and Facebook Groups

Email your mobile number to stockportramblerssecretary@gmail.com or stockportramblerssecretary@gmail.com

Dates for your Diary

- Joint walk with Rochdale Ramblers led by Stockport Ramblers 9th Nov
- Underground/overground Mine walk 16th Nov
- Stockport Ramblers AGM 19th Nov
- Manchester Area AGM with morning walk 29th Nov
- Christmas meal 12th Dec, (book your place before 22nd Oct)
- Seastoller weekend away 17th - 19th April 2026.

Simples!

If any member has not received the Newsletter or would like to receive the new and prospective member leaflets, they can request them by emailing stockportramblerssecretary@gmail.com

Communication with all our members, old and new is very important to us and keeping in touch couldn't be easier now with social media.

We currently have 66 members using our private Facebook page and 20 using our public Facebook page as well as 38 in our members only WhatsApp group. If any member would like access these platforms, they can ask any of the committee to add them.

Angie Bryant, Stockport Ramblers Membership Secretary

Stockport Ramblers Balance Sheet/Treasurers Report

Year Ending 30th September 2025

Treasurers Report

The annual returns have been completed, independently reviewed by Jim Horan and submitted to the Area Treasurer.

Group Funds

During this financial year we requested and received additional funds these have been used to put on first aid training and have allowed us to book additional walk leader training sessions taking part in the near future. As we still have some of these funds remaining to take us into the next financial year we have elected to receive our standard allocation only for this period.

There has been a slight increase this year in claims to support recce costs incurred to check walks. We will continue to offer these funds to facilitate leaders who may otherwise be unable to undertake these activities and reduce the personal financial burden. These are claimable after the group walk has taken place.

Social Funds

There is a small historical positive balance in the social funds.

Account Balances

Name:	Stockport			Year ended:	30/09/25
Code:	MR06				
Cashbook reconciliation					
		Main	Self-funded	Total	
Opening balance		1,249.31	2,392.30	3,641.61	[A]
Surplus/(deficit) on R&P		1,400.60	-156.21	1,244.39	[B]
Closing balance (rows A + B + C)		2,649.91	2,236.09	4,886.00	[C]
Closing balances (please give breakdowns below)	Cash	Bank	Total	[D]	Variance
	-	4,886.00	4,886.00		-
					[C] - [D]

Main Funds

Main					
Receipts	Current yr	Prior yr	Payments	Current yr	Prior yr
From CO (funding)	-		To CO	-	
From CO (other)	-		To Area	-	
From Area (funding)	2,520.00	610.12	To Group (funding)	-	
From Area (other)	-		To Group (other)	-	
From Group	-		To S/W Council	-	
From S/W Council	-		Walks programmes	-	
T/fer from 'Self-funded'	-		Walks related	701.99	455.19
Donations	-		Walks leader training	464.48	
Legacies	-		Newsletters/publicity	-	
Grants	-		Publication/goods costs	-	
Fundraising	-		Campaigns/casework	-	
Deposit interest	-		Practical work	-	
Investment income	-		Fundraising costs	-	
Publication/goods sales	-		Meetings (inc. AGM)	203.70	277.40
Advert sales	-		Admin	99.23	62.64
Other	-		Other	-	
Total receipts	2,520.00	610.12	Total payments	1,469.40	795.23
Surplus/(deficit)	1,050.60	- 185.11			

Self-funded

Self-funded					
Receipts	Current yr	Prior yr	Payments	Current yr	Prior yr
Day walks	120.00		Day walks	8.00	
Holidays	12,964.45	8,712.50	Holidays	13,544.66	6,947.33
Socials	1,666.95	1,258.50	Socials	987.95	1,336.00
Deposit interest	-		T/fer to 'Main'	-	
Other	-		Other	17.00	
Total receipts	14,751.40	9,971.00	Total payments	14,557.61	8,283.33
Surplus/(deficit)	193.79	1,687.67			

Theresa Russell, Treasurer.

Footpaths Officers Annual Report 2024/2025

Stockport (Phil Featherstone & Edgar Ernstbrunner, 14 September 2025)

There has been some tentative progress since last time, but much of this has yet to be implemented by the Council..

Stockport Local Access Forum:

At the meeting on 14 July, we once more raised two issues we are particularly concerned about:

1. Stockport PROWs subject to 24/7 PSPO (formerly S.129A) closures:

This had been raised at the PROW Forum on 26 June. We were told that the two paths in question ("Bilson Drive", 181S, and "Seal Road", 24HGB [part]) were being reviewed.

2. The major DMMO/S.53 WCA procedural & Register issue reported last time.

The S.53 Register is now free of any extraneous entries, but still lacks much of the detail statutorily required. We're told that the missing data are still being searched for.

Sadly, no visible progress on any of the outstanding claims, even though we were told months go that the Order dealing with one of them (a 10year old, very simple claim) was about to be made

Ongoing longer-term path problems:

Footpath 117 Stockport: No change since last time,

Footpath 21 Cheadle & Gatley: There is now a planning application that would affect this path, part o which would run along an estate road. But as this should help with dealing with the perennial litter problem on this path, we are minded not to oppose the scheme.

Stockport Rights of Way Forum:

The latest meeting, on 26 June, was useful in providing updates on specific schemes, but fairly routine. Next meeting 3 December

Stockport Path Survey:

A matter of stops and starts. After a brief flurry of reports we have, once more, not had any reports for several weeks – and the weather is now less conducive. **But:**

Path Maintenance

At the latest Group EC, considerable interest emerged from the survey in reviving the Path Maintenance Team from years ago. Apparently the tools used then are still being held by somebody. So the first step has to be to locate them, and then to decide how and where to use them – what can be done informally and what would require formal procedures.

DM&S consolidation: Ongoing, apparently. No end date scheduled.

Phil Featherstone and Edgar Ernstbrunner, Footpaths Officers.

STOCKPORT RAMBLERS WALKS COORDINATORS ANNUAL REPORT 2025

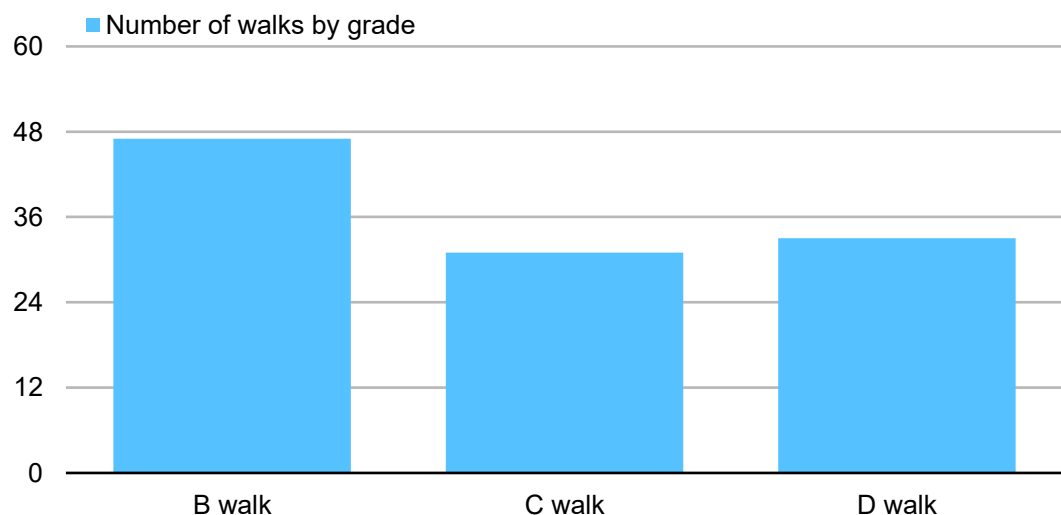
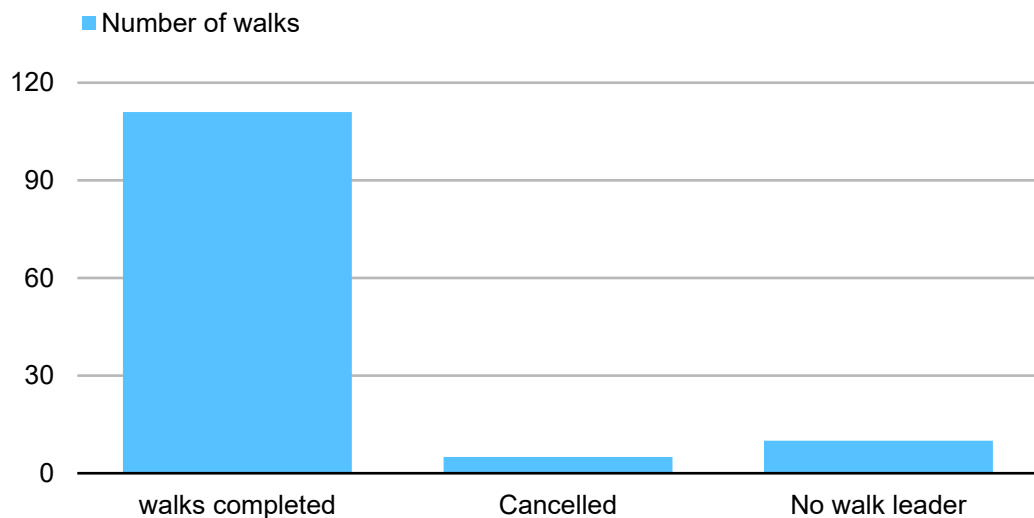
We have had another very successful year of walking, and despite sometimes struggling to find walk leaders we have continued to provide a variety of walks on Saturdays, Sundays and Tuesdays, as well as summer Wednesday evening strolls. This is more than many other Ramblers branches and is a credit to the many people who have agreed to lead walks.

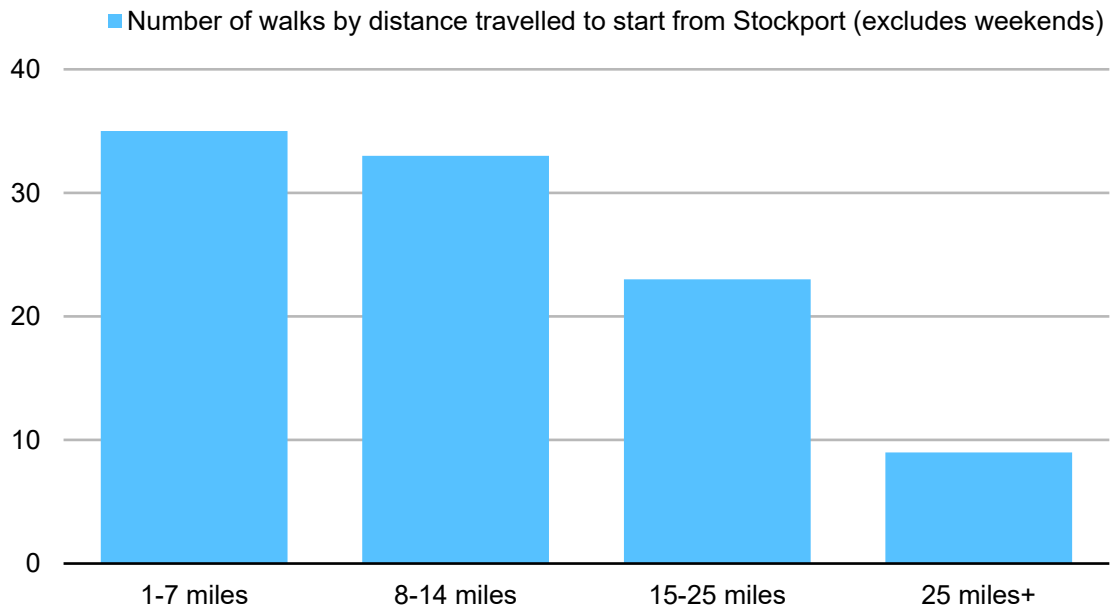
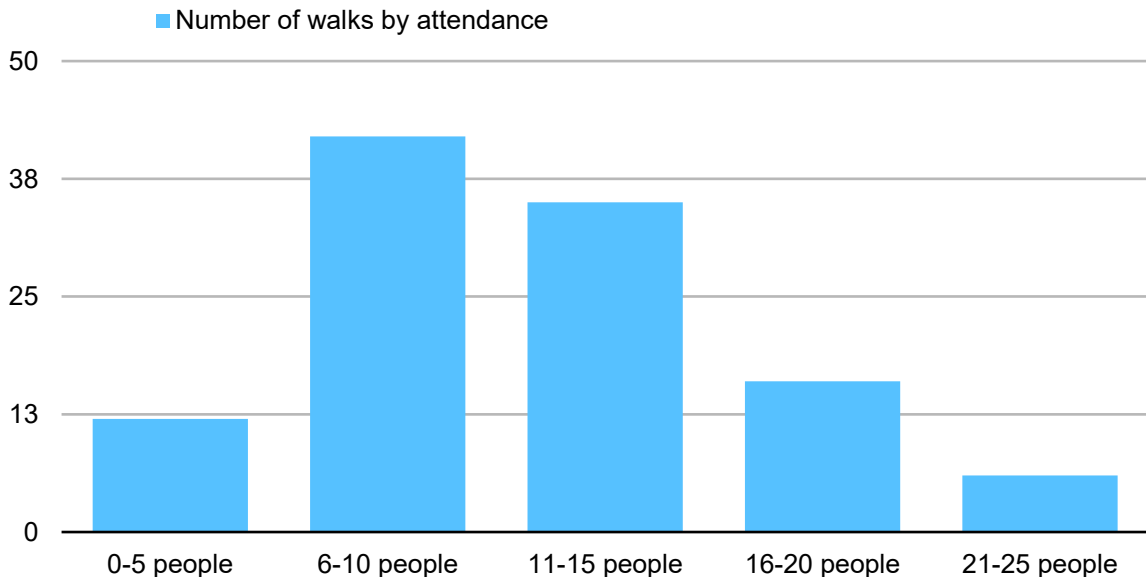
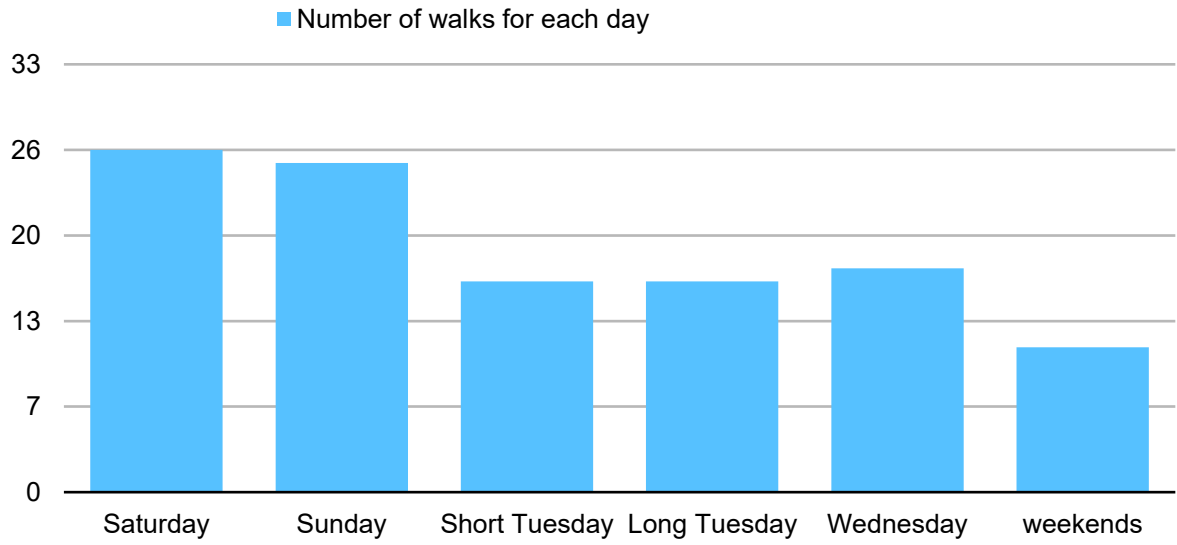
We have walked in some fabulous places locally and further afield - Mam Tor, Edale, Youlgreave, Eyam, Delamere, Broadbottom, Kinder, Bleaklow, Axe Edge, Macclesfield Forest, Great Hucklow, Grappenhall, Llandudno, Silverdale and Arnside - to name but a few.

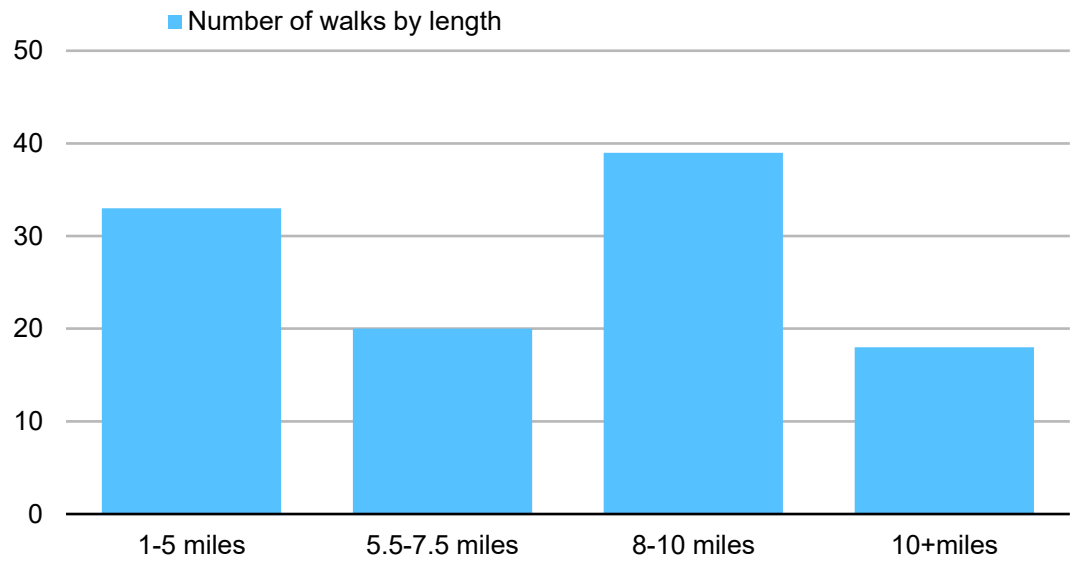
We sent out a questionnaire to all our ramblers to try to find out why more people aren't coming forward to lead walks- 40 people replied and provided us with valuable feedback. Common reasons for not leading walks ranged from lack of confidence to lack of experience walking and lack of knowledge of suitable routes. This has led us to come up with a training/resource package which we will be offering to all members early in the new year and hope that this will have a positive impact. More details to follow.

Short Tuesday walks with a pub lunch and Wednesday evening strolls continue to be the best supported walks - possibly a reflection on our age profile! However there is still a demand for longer and more challenging walks and we need to ensure that there are sufficient walk leaders to cover the full range of walks in our programme.

Some interesting stats for the period 1/1/2025 to 31/8/2025:







Diana Horrocks, Walks Coordinator.

Social Secretary Annual Report 2025

Social Calendar Overview

Throughout the current year, Stockport Ramblers has maintained a full and varied social calendar.

Season Opening Event

The season commenced with a meal at The Hare and Hounds Simmondly. Keith Povey led the B walk, covering 10 miles, while Pete Worsley guided the C walk, which followed an 8-mile Broad bottom and Woodseats circular route. Both options provided members with enjoyable opportunities to explore the area.

Twenty-five walkers attended, selecting their meals on the day and sharing favourable feedback. Thanks are extended to Rose for arranging this event.

Morecambe Spring Weekend Away

The spring weekend in Morecambe was coordinated by Christine Bell, providing members with an opportunity to explore the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) of Arnsdale and Silverdale. Accommodation for 26 attendees was arranged at The Clarendon Hotel, ensuring a comfortable base for the group throughout the event.

The programme was designed to cater for all walking abilities, with a variety of routes on offer:

- **Saturday:** Lesley Williams led a C walk covering an 8-mile circular route around Silverdale, while Pete Worsley guided the B walk, also taking in the scenic Silverdale area.
- **Sunday:** Pete Worsley led the B walk, a 10-mile trek around Arnsdale, whilst Angie Bryant took charge of the C walk, leading a 7.5-mile route through Arnsdale. Both walks offered participants the chance to appreciate the diverse landscapes and natural beauty of the region.
- **Monday:** Lesley Williams led a C walk at Glasson Dock, rounding off the weekend's walking activities.

Social gatherings were also a highlight of the weekend. On Friday, the group was welcomed at Atkinsons Fish and Chip Café, which opened after hours to accommodate the Ramblers. Saturday evening featured a group meal at The Morecombe Hotel, where members enjoyed excellent food.

Summer Social Event

Duncan Challen organised the summer social at Benvenuti Italian Restaurant in Hazel Grove, which was well attended by 30 people. Attendees enjoyed outstanding food and service.

Llandudno Walking Weekend

Christine Bell organised a delightful weekend in Llandudno, providing members with the opportunity to enjoy comfortable accommodation alongside a programme of engaging walking activities. The White Heather Hotel was selected as the main base for the event, hosting 23 members and offering a welcoming environment for relaxation and socialising. In

addition, eight participants opted for alternative lodging arrangements to better suit their preferences.

A group meal was held at The Albert Restaurant on Saturday evening. This highly regarded local venue accommodated all 31 participants, creating a friendly and sociable atmosphere that enhanced the overall enjoyment of the weekend.

Llandudno Walking Programme

- **Friday, 29th August:** Duncan Challen led a 4.5 mile coastal walk from Conwy back to Llandudno, offering participants scenic views and an enjoyable introduction to the weekend.
- **Saturday:** The walking choices catered for all abilities, with Lesley Williams guiding the C walk in the local area, and Pete Worsley leading the B walk, which covered an impressive distance of 11.5 miles.
- **Sunday:** Roy rounded off the activities with a picturesque 9-mile walk through the Conwy Valley, providing a fitting conclusion to the weekend's explorations.

Upcoming Events

- **Christmas Social at The Three Bears**

Organised by Christine Bell and Duncan Challen, this festive gathering promises to be a highlight of the season, offering members an opportunity to celebrate together in a welcoming setting.

- **October 2025: Weekend Away at Hassness House, Buttermere**

Lesley Williams will oversee arrangements for a walking weekend escape to Buttermere, ensuring a memorable experience for all attendees.

- **April 2026: Keswick Weekend Away**

Organised by Diana Horrocks, this trip will provide members with another chance to explore the beautiful Lake District in the springtime.

Christine Bell, Social Secretary.

Stockport Ramblers Chair Annual Report (Oct 24-Sept 25)

We had a change in Chair and Secretary in March 2025, following the announcement at last year's AGM that the Duncan and Christine were stepping down. I would like to thank Duncan and Christine for their support during the transition.

We have had another successful year of walk in and around Stockport as well as further afield. In the 12 months 1st October 2024 to 30th September 2025, 33 walk leaders have led us on 156 walks covering a total distance of 1224 miles which is the equivalent of walking from Stockport to Santiago De Compostela, Spain. 1444 Stockport Ramblers have welcomed 156 other ramblers and 68 guests.

The rest of the team have covered most of the key activities, so I will just highlight a few points.

One set of events that haven't been mentioned so far is we have run two Emergency First Aid at Work Training sessions, facilitated by a local provider. There was a slant towards incidents outdoors. Thank you to Angie Bryant for organising both sessions. We were able to offer some spaces on both sessions to other Ramblers groups in the Manchester Area. The feedback from all the attendees was very positive. "really informative, great content and great delivery" where some of the comments I am aware of.

As you will all be aware that there is a new requirement for 2026 that all walk leaders be certified and/or complete the on-line training. By the end of September, 16 walk leaders had completed the training or were certified. The Ramblers have provided us with training material to enable us to deliver the content of the on-line training as a group. We are arranging a face-to-face group session, planned for Saturday 22nd November, for walk leaders who would prefer to complete the training in a group environment. As Diana has already stated we are planning a walk support workshop in January for anyone interested in leading a walk.

Stockport Ramblers is one of the groups in the Manchester and High Peak Area, overseen by the Area Executive committee. Angie Bryant and I have attended the last three quarterly Area Executive meetings. These meetings are an opportunity for us to establish links with the other Ramblers groups in the area. We have had a couple of joint walks with Rochdale Ramblers this year and hope to organise more joint walks next year with other groups. We also have held 5 Stockport Rambler group committee meetings since March. We have held these in committee member's houses and cover all aspects of the running of the group. The key topics discussed have been shared with group members via the newsletters that Angie has already talked about.

I would like to finish by extending a huge thank you to the group committee for their support and hard work this year.

- Angie Bryant (Secretary and Membership Secretary)**
- Theresa Russell (Treasurer)**
- Diana Horrocks (Walks Coordinator and Facebook administrator)**
- Julia Mansfield (Walks Coordinator)**
- Christine Bell (Social Secretary and Webmaster)**

- **Phil Featherstone (Footpath Officer)**
- **Edgar Ernstbrunner (Footpath Officer)**

Without our fabulous walk leaders we would not have had the walks programme this year, thank you to you all. Finally, to everyone who has supported us over the last 12 months in making 2025 another successful year for the group, thank you.

Lesley Williams - Chair