

South Cheshire Ramblers Anniversary Celebrations



A Social Evening on Saturday 21st July 2018

Hog Roast and Ceilidh



At a meeting held on 11 December 1992 it was proposed: "that a Group of the Ramblers' Association South and East Cheshire Area, covering the Borough of Crewe and Nantwich or such other territory as may be agreed with the governing body of the Area from time to time, and to be called **The South Cheshire Group** be duly formed."

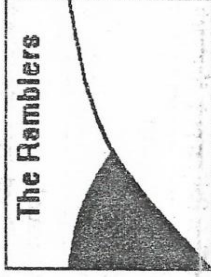
The proposal was carried.

A Committee was formed and the first Walks Programme: Interim Winter Programme 1992/1993 was drawn up and the rest, as they say, is history.

<u>CHAIRMAN</u>	<u>SECRETARY</u>	<u>CHAIRMAN</u>	<u>SECRETARY</u>
1992 – 1994		2003	
Alan Jennison	Doreen McCarthy	Peter Callery	Keith Calder
1994 – 1998		2004 – 2008	
Brian Weld	Doreen McCarthy	Paul Stone	Peter Callery
John McCombie – Vice Chairman			Caroline Nesbitt
Justin McCarthy – Vice Chairman			
1999		2009	
Vacant		Vacant	Frank Jones
Justin McCarthy – ViceChairman	John McCombie		Julie Hayward
2000 – 2001		2010 – Present	
David Smith – Acting Chairman	John McCombie	Phil Guest	Roni Hurst
2002			Bernard Stanway
David Smith	Peter Callery		Kevin White
			Steve Butterfield

During the 25 Years the Group has been supported by a Committee of Officers and Members covering such roles as: Walks/Rambles Programme, Footpaths, Countryside, Treasurer, Membership, Publicity, Newsletter, Librarian, Social and Website. Not forgetting the Walk Leaders without whom there would be no Walks Programme.

First Interim Programme



"The Ramblers' Association promotes rambling, protects rights of way, campaigns for access to open country and defends the beauty of the countryside."

SOUTH CHESHIRE GROUP

Interim Winter Programme 1992/1993

DATE AND TIME OF DEPARTURE	AREA, STARTING POINT AND GRID REFERENCE	MILES GRADE LEADER/S
Sunday 13 December 09.15	Peckforton and Bickerton Hills. Park on public car park by the Bickerton Poacher on the A534 (SJ523545).	10, 8 or 6 miles Moderate & Easy John McCombie & Graham Mountford
Sunday 20 December 10.30	Haslington Area Meet at the Haslington Village car park. (SJ737559)	6 miles Easy Mike O'Toole
Wednesday 30 December 09.15	Macclesfield Forest, Shutlingsloe and Wildboardclough. Park on the roadside by Ridgegate Reservoir (SJ955714)	9 - 10 miles Moderate John McCombie
Sunday 3 January 09.15 & 10.00*	Three Shire Heads, Goyt Valley *10.00 in car park (SK731014)	9 miles Moderate Rob Golding-Osborn
Wednesday 13 January 13.00	Betley and Wrinchill. Betley Village Hall (SJ754483)	4 - 5 miles Easy Alan Jennison
Sunday 17 January 08.30 or 08.45*	Church Stretton Parking details from leader. * From Civic Hall car park, Nantwich.	10 miles Moderate Justin McCarthy
Weekend 23/24 January	Yorkshire Moors Cottage. Some places still free. See R Golding-Osborn for details.	
Sunday 24 January	South Cheshire Way. A linear walk with transport by Coach. Further details from Margaret Baker.	12 miles Moderate
Sunday 31 January 09.30	Congleton Cloud and Mow Cop Parking details from leader.	10 miles Moderate Joe Tittensor

Now and Then:

The subject of what to wear and what to eat on a walk is always a hot topic. Trends and Brands seem as important to Ramblers as they are to today's youth! During a walk you will hear technical talk of: tex, wicking, sweating, wetting; and whether in the weather your feet are dry or your body is warm. There are debates about the relative merits of every make of boot from Alt-Berg to Berghaus, Regatta to Brasher and every make of coats and accessories from Mountain Equipment, North Face, Paramo, Lowe Alpine, Rohan [other brands are also available] cotton vs polyester, merino vs sealskins..... gaiters or spats and how much water and food to carry along with all of the changes of clothing !

But..... as Alfred Wainwright said:

“There's no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing.”

And from the Archives (1992), Alan V Jennison, then Membership Secretary wrote to a Fellow Walker:

On the subject of walking one question that has been raised by a number of people is that of what to bring along on a ramble. In answer to this I can only offer an insight into what I carry when walking. As a rule I carry wet weather protection, a torch, food if out for the whole day, chocolate and a hot drink. When I know that I will be walking on poor terrain I also like to carry Gaiters and a change of socks. I hope you find this list of use but would remind all walkers that, though we know a short and easy walk can soon become totally the opposite, we should always remember that we have to carry everything we take with us.

Let them Eat Cake

When Chairman Phil Guest was new to the group and out on a walk he would always impress us by bringing a little sweet treat to have with his coffee break, this was usually a slice of Sainsbury's Tiffin or maybe a biscuit like the rest of us. Until one day he very proudly produced from his 'butty box' a piece of fruit cake made by his own fair hand! We are not sure if any of his fellow walkers got to sample it..... so if not, here is the recipe, try it:

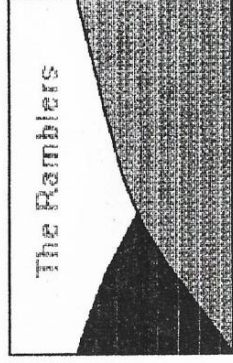
Cross Country Fruit Cake

Ingredients	Method
500 grms Mixed Fruit 200 grms Mixed Peel 200 grms Glace Cherries A mug of Self Raising Flour 1 tsp. Baking Powder 2 Eggs Orange Juice	Soak the fruit and peel overnight in enough orange juice to moisten it and add more juice if needed the morning of the bake. Line and grease an 8" cake tin. Turn oven on to 200c conventional or 180c for fan. Put the fruit and cherries into a bowl and mix to incorporate. Add the flour and baking powder and mix thoroughly. Whisk the eggs in a separate bowl until frothy then add this to the fruit and flour mix and stir well in. Turn the mix into the prepared tin and level the top. Bake for 1 hour or until a metal skewer can be inserted into the cake and when removed remains clean. Remove from the oven and cool.

Next time you ramble take a slice for your coffee break; it will add miles to your walking pleasures.

Weekend Breaks and Holidays - The Chairman's Weekend - Number 1

And where did they go .?



"The Ramblers' Association promotes rambling, protects rights of way, campaigns for access to open country and defends the beauty of the countryside."

SOUTH CHESHIRE GROUP

21 June 1993

Dear Fellow Rambler

The Chairman's Weekend

It has been suggested by some unfortunate idiot within the group, probably me, that a weekend ramble be arranged away from our own local area and that this ramble should be known as "The Chairman's Weekend". My thirst for adventure has laid claim to my summer holiday so that I may spend 10 weeks tormenting the children of Moldavia in a vain hope of teaching them something about Rambling in and around Cheshire, or I think that's what they want me to do, so time for a weekend ramble seemed impossible.

They say there's nothing like a challenge so at considerable expense (50p), and a vast length of time (10 minutes) for research, I have produced what I modestly call my "Master Plan".

Prepare not only to be amazed by the exotic location, stunned by the style and splendor of the accommodation, and braced by the crisp sea air. Picture the scene, a moment to treasure, that first tantalizing glimpse then..... and fish and chips to follow! YES, you've guessed, were going to ♣♠♥♦. Sorry but this machine can only take so much excitement in any one day.



WARNING

For those of a nervous disposition it is advised that the information contained on the following page be read with one eye shut or in a darkened room with the lights switched on.

You have been warned!

The Chairman's Weekend

A weekend visit to the Autumn Steam Gala held over the 2nd and 3rd October 1993 on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway.

Friday

Travel to Whitby and arrive at the Hotel Carlill no earlier than 4pm. The evening is free so that people may acclimatise to the temperature! Those wishing to share transport should contact Rob Golding-Osborn on 0782 45525.

Saturday

Members may choose between;

1, A visit to the Autumn Steam Gala,

OR

2, A circular ramble from Saltergate of 12 miles duration (easy to moderate)

OR

3, A sea angling trip on a local charter boat (subject to numbers).

Sunday

A coastal walk of 8 miles with your Chairman to Robin Hood's Bay (moderate).

Return home.

COST

The charge for the weekend is £24 per person and includes Bed & Breakfast. A supplement of £2 is charged for single accommodation and those wishing further details should contact me direct. Places are limited and available on a first come first served principle. A non-refundable deposit of £5 is required to reserve your place.

Since then the tradition has followed with the Chairman or other members of the group organising breaks and holidays to such places as:

Ludlow, Clun, Snowdonia, Caernarfon; Yorkshire, Scotland, Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Wight, The Lake District and Dartmoor.

And we have also walked the many trails and ways in our own area and beyond: The Gritstone Trail, Sandstone Trail, South Cheshire Way, Two Saints Way, Mow Cop Trail, North Cheshire Way, Mortimer Trail, etc

Many members of the Group have travelled further afield on organised walking holidays or arranged their own adventures and challenges to: Kilimanjaro, Cuba, Santiago de Compostella, South Africa, The Inca Trail, Machu Picchu, Canary Islands, Madeira, Spain, Vietnam, France, We are indeed quite an adventurous lot !

Just like a Ramble, there is always more than one route to the final destination. Two puzzles but the answer is same. Chose your route to find the two word answer (11, 4)

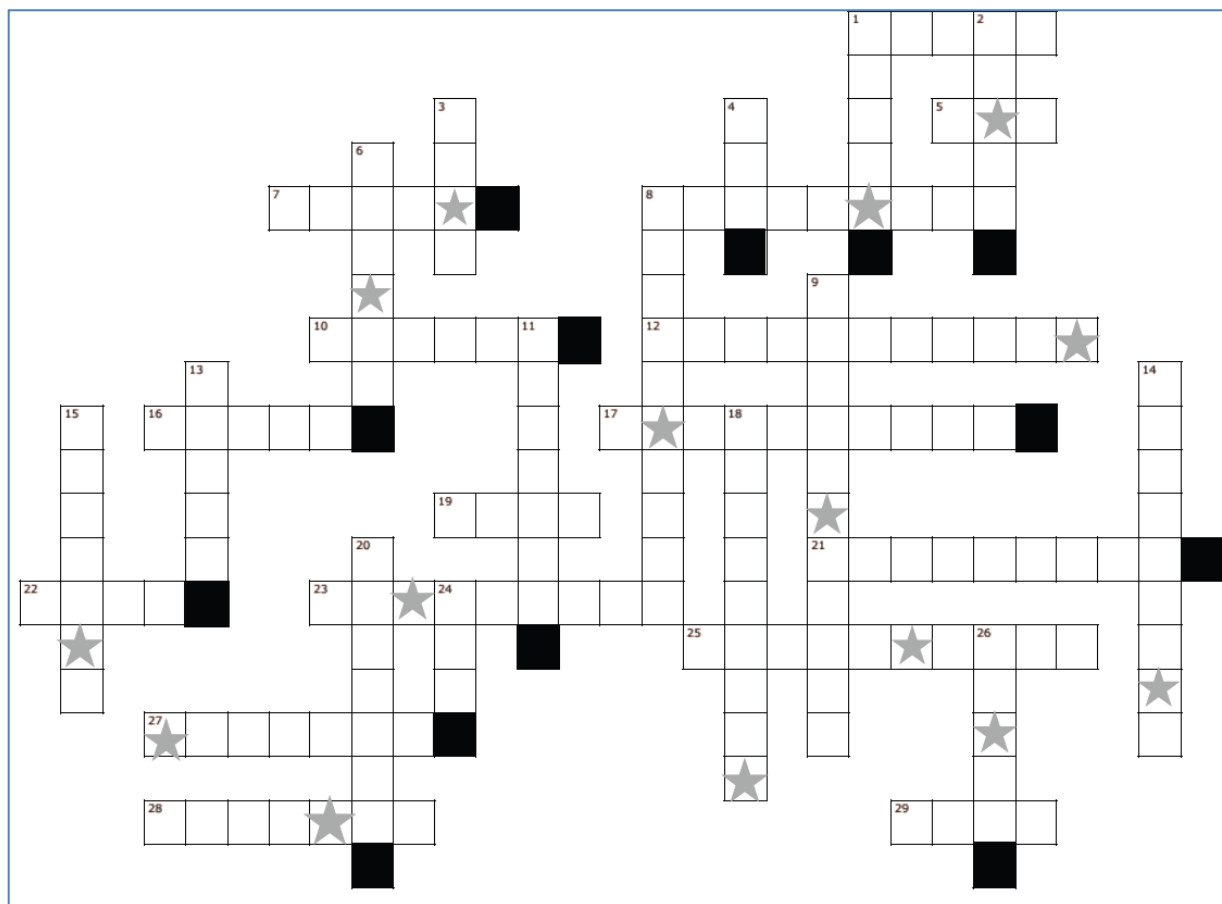
Route 1 - Crossword Puzzle - The answer is written in the stars

Across

1. Reconnoitre 5
5. Ground plan 3
7. Odometer measures 5
8. Hope to complain, being without hard headgear 6. 3
10. Ruler,guide. 6
12. Romantic opening 7. 4
16. Drinks container. 5
17. Wire cutting communication between landowners and ramblers 6 4
19. Humpty's disaster 4
21. Gardening tool. 9
22. Insect noise of a watch. 4
23. Points where to go. 9
25. Delightful spot in which ramblers grew. 3 2 5
27. The rocks (In French) 7
28. Boy Scout tool 7
29. Travel,by ox wagon maybe 4

Down

1. Maybe one way 5
2. Shoreline 5
3. Coffee break 4
4. Social end of walk 3
6. Take these off no more Mr nice guy 6
8. last person on walk 4. 6
9. Water over the edge(old Norse) 11
11. Ranch style house U S A 7
13. Prepare for the future. 5
14. Sedimentary rock 9
15. Boot care 7
18. Shared path. 9
20. Mud protectors 7
24. Ramblers nightmare 3
26. Climbing frame for ramblers 5



Route 2 - Wordsearch : Rearrange the remaining letters in the grid to form the two word answer (11, 4)

Adding sound effects to a film 7
 Do ramblers rest here 3 2 5
 Rambling group needs these 7
 Trendy headgear 6 3
 Walk needs to end before this 4
 Sedimentary rock 9
 Romantic openings 7 5
 Covering for hands 6
 A barrier to cows and sheep but not ramblers 5
 Unwelcome obstacle in fields 6 4
 Essential for planning a walk 3
 Imperial measurement 5
 Useful when unsure of way 7
 Ramblers don't like a strong one 4
 1st walk for South Cheshire Ramblers 9

last walker 10
 social part of walk 3
 useful tool 9
 mud protectors 7
 stop moving 4
 soft sticky matter 3
 autumn 4
 a climbing rose 7
 pleasing sky colour 4
 what ramblers do 4
 preliminary walk 5
 state of confusion 3
 prepare for a walk 4
 Ramblers like to see this 3

A final cryptic clue: "There is Silver in this Gap !"

To Enter:

e-mail your answer

to: secretaryramblerssouthcheshire@yahoo.co.uk

Type: **25PUZZLE** in the Subject Line

Closing Date: 12 July 2018

All correct answers will be entered into a Prize Draw
 and the winner revealed at the Celebration on 21st July

B	E	D	O	F	R	O	S	E	S	G	K	E
A	A	V	A	M	A	P	U	B	E	O	I	Y
C	N	R	E	S	T	R	L	L	A	F	S	N
K	B	O	B	B	L	E	H	A	T	R	S	O
M	L	S	R	E	T	I	A	G	N	A	I	T
A	U	L	E	A	D	E	R	S	G	S	N	R
R	E	D	D	N	I	W	I	Y	L	S	G	E
K	L	A	W	S	E	L	I	M	O	A	G	K
E	A	R	E	L	B	M	A	R	V	P	A	C
R	E	C	C	E	S	T	I	L	E	M	T	I
S	A	N	D	S	T	O	N	E	S	O	E	B
G	N	I	B	B	U	D	A	R	K	C	S	R
S	E	C	A	T	E	U	R	S	U	N	S	N

What about the Walkers, the Leaders and the Walks ?

The group has maintained a membership of around 200, sometimes more sometimes fewer, but not all of them regular walkers - or even walkers at all. There have always been people who join in order to support the Ramblers' aims and work locally and nationally and they are equally valuable to the group.

Some newsletters in the past have said that 'regular walkers number around 40, with 10-20 walkers turning out for a walk'. At one crisis point - when there was a split from the group - numbers dwindled and some walks were even called off. But the SCR Group sorted itself out, recovered and has since continued to blossom. The core of regular walkers has also increased and walk attendances vary from a handful (rare) to the mid twenties (quite often) with the mid teens being perhaps the most common.

The group has conducted various surveys over the years to try to better understand the membership and its wishes. Critical responses included comments: 'we are a lot of old codgers'; 'we prefer walking in the local area'; 'we don't like long car journeys'; 'we don't like long / hard walks'; 'it depends on who the leader is.'

But the reality is that, while some of us may be old codgers, we actually do like a huge variety of walks in a wide area and walk leaders will always lead whether just 1 or 40 people turn up.

Looking through the programmes shows that over the years there have always been weekend walks (Saturdays or Sundays) and walks on some Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. There have been family friendly walks, school holiday walks, woodland walks, real ale walks, food walks, lunch dinner and tea walks, mountain walks and walks on group breaks.

The membership may have changed over the years but the appetite for walking in the open air with a group of friends remains strong. The walk leaders can be proud of their efforts.

Going back through the Archives: From January - December 1994 there were 54 walks in the Programme, in 1995 there were 58 walks.

More recently Rae Davies and Carole Bentley, our Walk Programme Coordinators, prepared a detailed analysis of walks for 2017

The average number of walkers (current programme) to the end of October 2017 is 16 people per walk. Looking at the figures more closely:

Long weekend walks (Sat/Sun 6+ miles) = 16.

Midweek walks (Wednesday) = 12

Midweek walks (Thursday) = 14

Short Sunday walks (4 miles or less) = 21

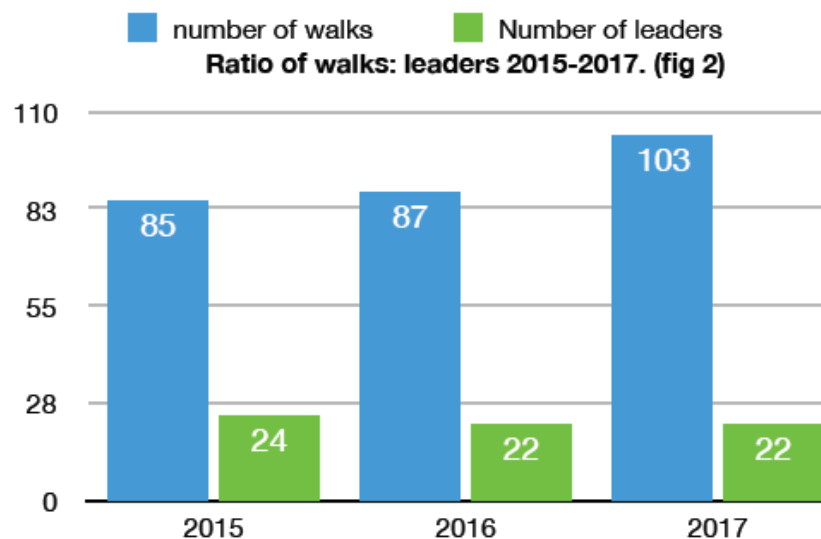
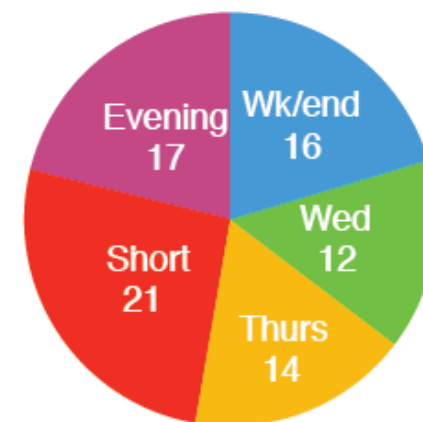
Evening summer walks = 17 (see fig 1)

We have increased the number of walks in this year's programme to 103 walks over 51 weekends. In 2015 we had 85 walks led by 24 members. In 2016, 87 walks led by 22 members and this year our 103 walks have been led, again, by 22. (fig 2) We are increasing our walk total but are finding it difficult to extend our walk leader numbers. This causes problems in the planning process.

The next programme (January-June 2018) is now complete and there are 51 walks during this period -three more than last year. Over the past 18-24 months we have lost a good number of experienced leaders and we don't seem to be able to replace them at the moment. More of our regular members are stepping up to the mark and offering to lead 3, 4 and in some cases 5 walks - on each six month programme. A commendable effort, but is this sustainable?



Type of walk : Average numbers on walks Jan-October 2017 (fig 1)



And finally

