

**South Cheshire Group
Annual General Meeting
Monday, 14th November, 2022
Nantwich Museum CW5 5BQ**

Start 7:00pm

Members Attending

Trevor Park, Jim Eckersley, Hazel Wallis, Phil Guest, Steve Butterfield, Christine Ashton, Alison Belcher, Chris Bishop, Jan Tearle, Elizabeth Bull, Kevin Bush, Judith Spowage, Bev Brady, Alan Edwards, Jenny Edwards, Helen Lea, Nigel Hallam, Kate Whittles, Susan Jones, Pam Simmons, Eileen Dorman, Mags Grindrod, Gill Butterfield

1. Chairmans welcome

Trevor welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave his view of how the group had developed through the year coming out of the pandemic.

He then outlined his aims for the group in 2023.

Copy of the chairs address is on attachment 1

2. Reports from the Officers

Membership Secretary

Hazel presented the monthly figures for new members and those leaving the ramblers. The graph shows that the membership has grown steadily from a low point in March 22 to a figure comparable to pre pandemic numbers.

Hazel has written a personalised note to all members who have joined in the last 12 months to encourage them to join in our group walks and also inform them of group activities such as the annual dinner in January.

Walks Co-ordinator

Phil Guest was asked to take on the role of walks co-ordinator in October to address serious concerns about the lack of forward planning.

Though recently appointed Phil was able to give a clear overview of what has been achieved and importantly what we need to do to achieve our target of a 6 month walks plan, see attachment 3.

One success to note is the re-introduction of the short walks on the programme, championed by Nigel Hallam.

Further progress on the walks programme has been made since the AGM and the current status is that we now have a complete weekend programme running to the end of March.

Website Development

Jim reported on 2 issues

The coding language is being updated to the latest code version PHPS. The SCR page for submitting walks does not work with this new level. Hence we have requested that our suite should not be upgraded until a new form is designed and in place.

The second is that a new Walks Manager is to be introduced replacing GWEM (General events and walks management). This was planned for April this year but currently is still on trial with a number of walking groups.

Once Walks Manager is in place it will need the Submit walk form to be modified to suit.

The lack of clarity on timing on this and other IT issues is a constant source of frustration with head office.

Footpath Officer

HS2 and its impact on rights of way has been a source of concern for many members having already seen paths closed.

However the assurance given during a review has shown that the major disruption will take place during construction of HS2. Once operational there are only 2 paths that are lost in our region.

Response to footpath concerns on stiles and pathways has been variable from Cheshire East, who cite financial restrictions.

However members are encouraged to continue to report issues so they can be logged with the council.

Secretary's report

Steve who is both the SCR and East Cheshire area secretary gave an overview of 2022 - see attachment 4

Steve confirmed to the meeting that the Cheshire East AGM will be held on Tuesday 29th November at Macclesfield Tennis Club starting at 7:00pm.

3. Treasurers Report

Audited by Paul Boniface

Christine circulated the accounts and explained the various cash flows through the accounts.

Through the pandemic our request for funding was kept at a minimum due to our low rate of spend, However as activities are returning to normal and spend is increasing our request for funds will increase proportionally.

On self funded activities it was highlighted that on the HF Malhamdale holiday in May a surplus of £562 was generated thanks to Phil Guest not taking the holiday organisers free holiday entitlement.

4. Thanks to Retiring Officers

Steve Butterfield is standing down as SRC secretary after many years service.

During this period Steve worked tirelessly to maintain the professionalism and organisational protocol both with the SCR group and externally to East Cheshire area and the Ramblers head office.

This has been particularly noteworthy during the last year when injury has prevented Steve from joining group walks.

Steve will maintain the role of Secretary to East Cheshire and following recovery from surgery we hope to see Steve back with us on walks next year.

James Platt had previously stood down as the footpath officer to pursue his interests with affiliated walking groups he is involved with.

5. Election of Officers

We are pleased to nominate 2 new officers to the committee

Phill Guest who was confirmed as the walks co-ordinator for SCR

Kevin Bush was nominated as SCR secretary replacing Steve Butterfield

We wish them both well in their roles and thank them for volunteering

Hence the 2023 committee is:

Chair	Trevor Park
Members Secretary	Hazel Wallis
Walks Co-ordinator	Phill Guest
Website development	Jim Eckersley
Footpath Officer	Open
Treasurer	Christine Ashton
Support	Alan Edwards
Secretary	Kevin Bush

6. Meeting Conclusion

Refreshments were provided by Mags and Hazel, many thanks

Then Graham Dodd from the Nantwich Museum gave another interesting talk on "Tales from the Marches" which was greatly appreciated,

The meeting concluded at 9:30pm

Attachment 1

Report from the Chair

This year has seen a return to normality in most walks of life for everyone as we have learned to live with Covid, though the effects of the last 3 years still shapes our lives.

Through the year we have maintained a full walk programme with both weekend and midweek walks,

During the summer we had the ever popular evening pub walks, as well as being a social evening it offers the opportunity to walk for those who prefer to restrict their walks.

As well as meeting the needs of members the shorter walks are a great way of attracting new members to the group. This was my way into the SCR group where I went on a number of the evening walks before feeling confident of joining the longer weekend walks.

When we joined in with other local clubs in Nantwich this summer advertising our activities at the Societies Spectacular a common request from people interested in joining a walking club was for shorter walks.

To meet this need we have set ourselves the target of having a short weekend walk once a month, this will be predominantly on a Sunday afternoon.

Alongside the walks programme we had 2 excellent walking holidays this year at Portpatrick and Skipton, many thanks to Eileen and Phil for organising these with help from other members.

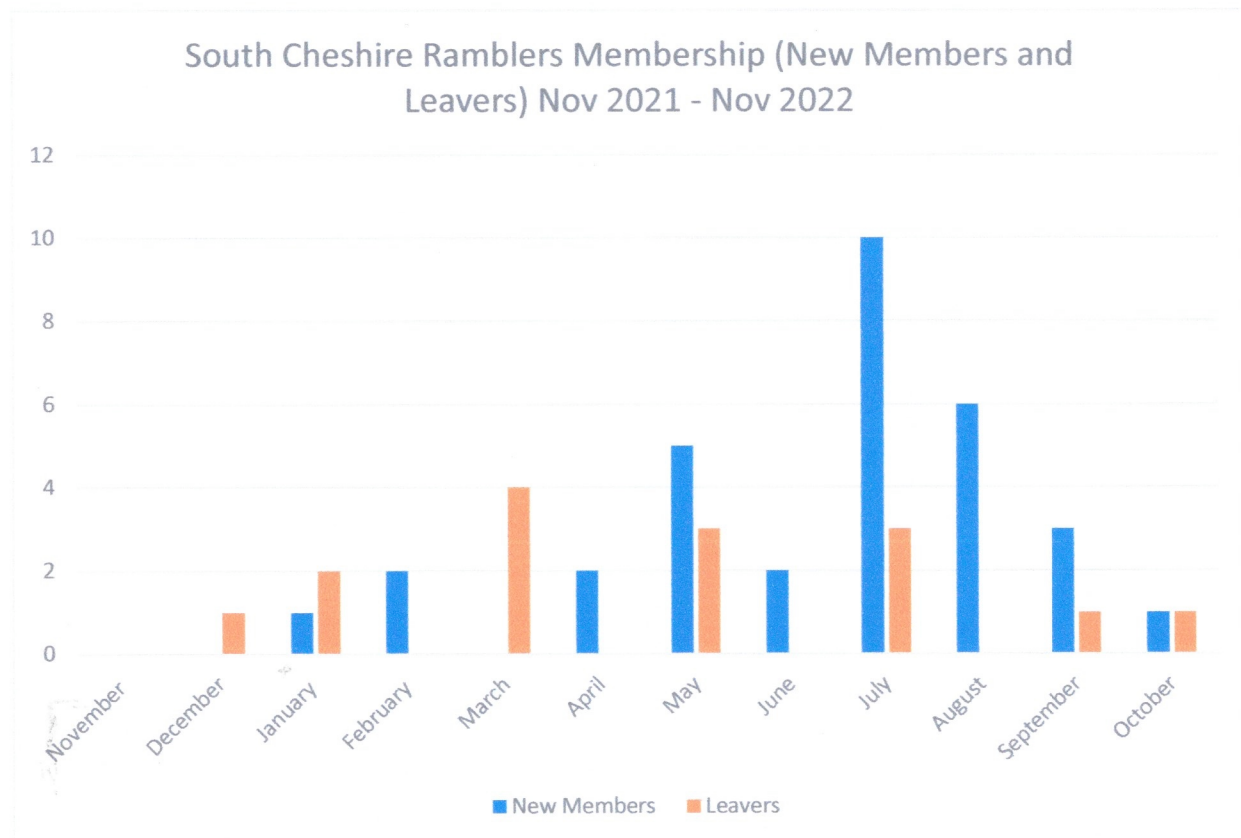
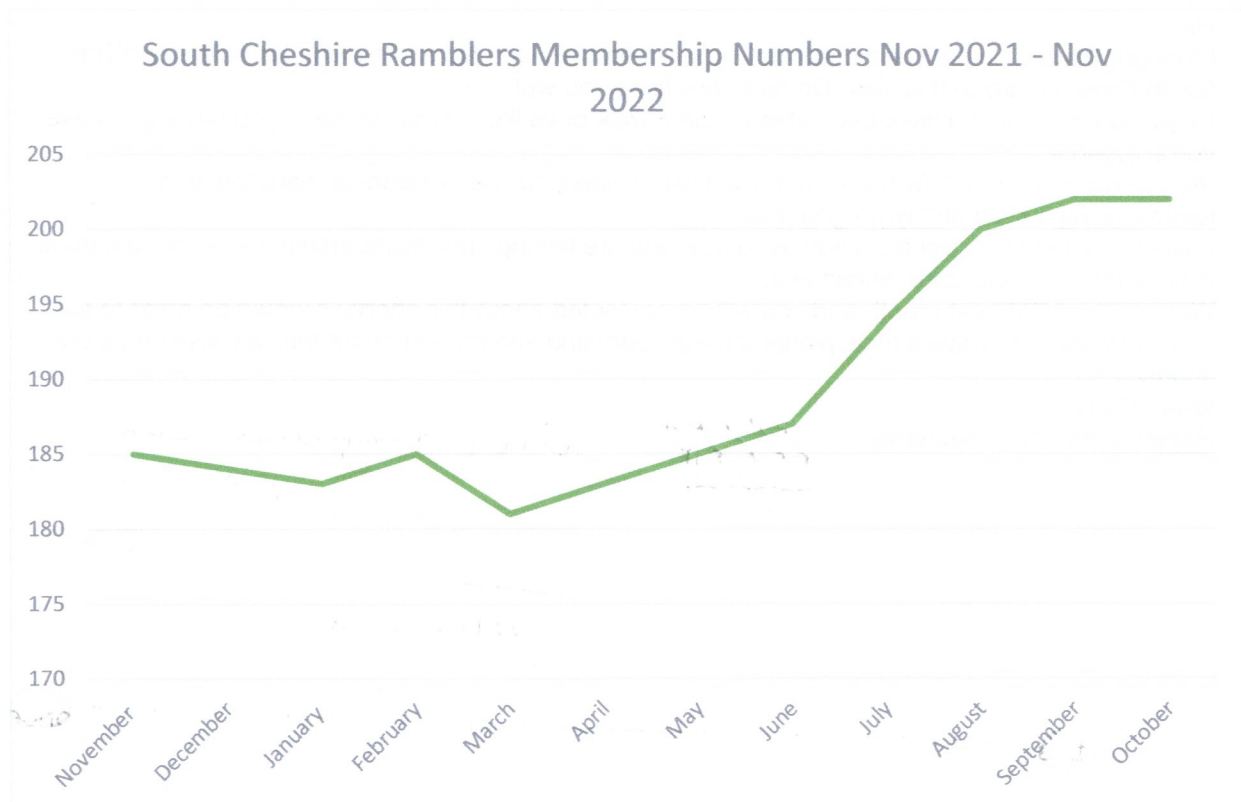
These holidays bring out the best of the group both socially and through the joy of walking. On these holidays the group is both inclusive and appreciative of the efforts of each other.

The popularity of these holidays is apparent with the one planned for Keswick next Spring being booked up immediately.

It is the aforementioned spirit of the group holidays I would hope to see transferred into the main programme. With all active members feeling they are involved and looking to support the programme either as a wayleader or offering their support in whatever way they can.

The goal is to have a more forward looking programme so that people both in the group and non members who would like to join a walking group can plan ahead more effectively.

Attachment 2



Attachment 3

Week Commencing	Midweek1	Date	Midweek 2	Date	Saturday	Date	Sunday am	Date	Sunday pm	Date
03-Oct							Douglas Hill	9th Oct		
10-Oct							Hazel Wallis	16th Oct		
17-Oct	Sarah Heald	20th Oct					Andy Webb	23rd Oct		
24-Oct							Chris Bishop	30th Oct		
31-Oct							Trevor Park	6th Nov	Nigel Hallam	6th Nov
07-Nov	Ann Holroyd	10th Nov					Helen Lea	13th Nov		
14-Nov							Mike Tarry	20th Nov		
21-Nov							Alan Edwards	26th Nov	Eileen Dorman	27th Dec
28-Nov							Phil Guest	4th Dec	Maggie Thomason	4th Dec
05-Dec							Chris Ashton	11th Dec		
12-Dec							John O'Keefe	18th Dec	Sally Nield	18th Dec
19-Dec							Christmas Day	25th Dec		
26-Dec	Phil Guest	27th Dec					New Years Day	1st Jan		1st Jan
2023										
02-Jan							Alan/Jane	8th Jan		
09-Jan							Helen Lea	15th Jan		
16-Jan							Trevor Park	22nd Jan	Sarah Heald	22nd Jan
23-Jan							Kevin Bush	29th Jan		
30-Jan							David Fine	5th Feb	Helen Lea	5th Feb
06-Feb							Trevor Park	12th Feb		
13-Feb							Douglas Hill	19th Feb		
20-Feb							Alison Belcher	25th Feb		
27-Feb									Lorna Astle	5th Mar
06-Mar							Kevin Bush	12th Mar		
13-Mar							Trevor Park	19th Mar		

Attachment 4

Secretary's report 2021-22

South Cheshire Ramblers Group:

Thanks to the efforts of the committee and those who have organised and led walks and those who have organised events through the year the group has continued to flourish.

Its good to hear of members who have volunteered to take up roles and in doing so help the group move forwards.

The wider National picture:

Cheshire East AGM will be held on Tuesday 29th November at Macclesfield Tennis Club, starting at 7pm.

Ramblers UK offered many updates and a new brand at the start of 2022. However, these are taking time to materialise and some, such as the new South Cheshire web page on the National web site has not happened at all, despite the content and photo being sent in February this year. Whilst not a very important issue to the group it is indicative of the way that Ramblers UK has been this year in my eyes.

General Council

I attended General Council earlier this year, representing the Cheshire East Area. It was a one day event and was held at the NEC. The event is usually held over two days and when I saw the list of motions to be discussed I think it would have been better over two days.

There was a lot of business to get through and a lot of motions to discuss and vote on.

There were several motions where the thorny issue of risk assessments was raised. Some were passed - asking that a better system be found to having to do a separate written risk assessment that then has to be saved for a period of 3 years. Various alternative were discussed, including, incorporating any risks in the walk description. Members were making positive suggestions to ease the burden on and the possible discouragement of present and future walk leaders.

It will be for the board of trustees to decide the way forward. But there were strong feelings about this issue and about the London / Southern concentration of the Ramblers organisation.

It was the feeling of a lot of people that ramblers should be doing everything possible to encourage members to be volunteers and to plan and lead walks.

Attachment 5

Hi all,

Please find attached an overview of the South Cheshire Ramblers accounts for 1.10.2021–30.09.22. The accounts have been audited by Paul Boniface.

Income

We started the financial year with an opening balance of £1,123.35 for the main account and a negative opening balance of -£44.14 for the self-funded account, following the purchase of 100 x £1 HF holiday membership shares which, as withdrawable share capital, have now been added to the accounts. As a result of reduced activity due to Covid restrictions in the previous year, the Group had a much higher than recommended main account funds to expenditure rate of 202% (The Ramblers recommends that this should be kept within 40 - 100%) and, for this reason, a minimum annual fund allocation of £272.76 (£1.01 per member plus £95) was requested.

A "membership reward" of £10 was received on behalf of a member who had taken a Ramblers holiday and this was allocated to the self-funded income (for holidays and socials).

Main funds

In this financial year there has been a total expenditure of main funds of £994.35. The walk-related expenses of £609.50 are made up of £509.50 for mileage claims for walk recces and £100 for the annual subscription for OS map group membership, which continues to be well used. Our expenditure on the AGM and other general meetings was £234.85 for items including AGM refreshments, a donation to the AGM speaker, flowers (gifts for leaving/existing Committee members) and train fares to a Council meeting in London. Refreshments for the recent Walk Programme meeting cost £150.00.

Self-funded activities

We spent £588 on the annual dinner at South Cheshire College. There was a surplus of £562 on the HF Malhamdale holiday in May, thanks to Phil Guest opting not to take the holiday organiser's free holiday entitlement. A deposit of £1,800 (24 x £75) has been collected and paid for the holiday at HF Keswick in May next year.

Final balance of accounts

On 30th September, the balance of the SCR bank account was £887.78. We also hold £100.76 in our HF holiday membership share account and £40.64 in cash, making a total of £1,029.18.

As a result of the low funding request and post-pandemic increased activity, the funds to expenditure ratio has been significantly reduced to just over 40%. I have therefore requested £1,000 funding for the financial year 1st October 22 – 30th September 23. This has been approved and will be paid in quarterly instalments, commencing end of October 2022.

Chris Ashton
Treasurer

Annual Income

Central Office	£272.76 (main income)
Ramblers Holidays	£10.00 (self-funded income)
Total	£282.76

Main Expenditure 1.10.21 - 30.09.22

Walk related (£509.50 recces, £100 OS maps sub)	£609.50
Meetings related (general incl. AGM)	£234.85
Walks programme meeting	£150.00
Total	£994.35

Self-funded expenditure	Annual Dinner	Malhamdale	Keswick	Total
Income	£588.00	£10,629.00	£1,800.00	
Expenditure	-£588.00	-£10,067.00	-£1,800.00	
Balance	£0.00	£562.00	£0.00	£562.00

	Main	Self-funded	Total
Initial Balance	£1,123.35	-£44.14	£1,079.21
HF membership share holding incl. interest		£100.76	
Central office income	£272.76		
Malhamdale holiday surplus		£562.00	
Bank charges for cheque payments		-£1.20	
Ramblers Holiday income		£10.00	
Expenditure	-£994.35		
Final balances	£401.76	£627.42	£1,029.18

Assets	Current balance	Pending payments	Actual Balance
Bank	£887.78		£887.78
Cash	£40.64		£40.64
HF membership share holding	£100.76		£100.76
Total	£1,029.18		£1,029.18