

## Ross and District Walking Group Committee Meetings in 2025

## Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025

		Action
Present	Kath Baldwin (in the chair), Carol Endersby, Diane Hudson (by telephone), Gail Spolton. (In attendance: Harry Britten-Austin)	
Apologies	Bob Carter, Gill James, Pauline Thomas, Don Wood	
Minutes of last meeting	These were agreed and signed by KB as a true record of the meeting on 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2024.	
Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Walking Group Holiday to the Manor Hotel Okehampton would not go ahead this year due to lack of interest.</li> </ul>	
Membership and Treasurer's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Treasurer's Report had been received but the figures were unclear to view in its current format. It was requested that DW resends when back in the UK, in order to be approved.</li> <li>There are currently 139 x members, with 1 x subscription outstanding.</li> </ul>	DW
Walk Co-coordinator's Report, Walks Programme and Driver's List	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walks Programme: November 2024 walks were reasonably full. In December there was only one other walk apart from 'Round the Houses' and the 'Christmas Lunch' walks. It was previously thought there was little interest in walking in the lead up to Christmas period, but positive numbers on 19<sup>th</sup> December indicate this might not be the case; finding walk leaders with enough time to organise them could be the challenge! There were 8 x walks in January, 6 x grade 3 and 2 x grade 2; mostly shorter walks but well supported so probably best at this time of year. February is currently not looking good. It has been great to see a few more members' leading/co-leading walks and this is highly encouraged for the year ahead. It will be raised in Chairman's Chat.</li> <li>5 x people have indicated they would be happy to drive longer distances for walks organised further away, subject to their availability.</li> <li>Walk Leaders are encouraged to regularly check 'Walk Leader's Guidance' on the website under the 'Info and Guidance' section.</li> <li>Incident Forms will be a standing item at each Committee Meeting. There have been no incidents reported.</li> </ul>	KB  KB/GS
Review of Walk Grades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several members had provided feedback on the changes to walk grades. These were discussed and other suggestions made. Kath agreed to put these together to form an amended document which would be circulated to Committee Members for comment.</li> </ul>	KB
Social Matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Round the Houses, The Christmas Lunch and New Year's Lunch were well supported and would be repeated this year. Thanks were extended to the organisers of each.</li> <li>Future Events: <b>Summer Social Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July</b>, this will be held at the Yew Tree Inn, Peterstow. Hilary has kindly agreed to provide the catering. Details will be displayed on the 'Walking Programme' and members asked to complete the lunch forms and submit payment accordingly (Cost TBC)</li> <li>'Round the Gardens': Jan Lelievre has kindly agreed to organise, date tbc.</li> <li><b>Other Social Events for 2025:</b> Potential ideas from all members who are happy to organise events are welcomed. This will be mentioned in Chairman's Chat and at the AGM</li> </ul>	HB-A  KB

2025 AGM Planning	<p><b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at the Conservative Club, Ross on Wye</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please see the '<b>Walks Programme</b>' for further details on the day and to complete a form if you would like to book lunch / renew your annual membership Payment is required by <b>1<sup>st</sup> April</b>.</li> <li>Mary Sears and Chris Sutton have kindly agreed to lead a short optional walk prior to the AGM meeting.</li> <li>GS will liaise with Rosemary Sutton to see if she can produce walking statistics for the meeting.</li> <li>Certificates in certain categories will be produced.</li> <li>There will be a photo slide-show displayed.</li> <li>Committee: Nominations for the new Committee should be received by <b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>. The nomination forms need dates to be amended from last year.</li> <li>Other Matters: A 'Health and Well-Being Market' is being held under the Market House in ROW on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February from 9am – 14.30. A Rota of volunteers have been organised by KB to 'man' a stall. Suggestions of items to be displayed were discussed, a large copy of our 'Walking Programme' and the 2025 'Ross Walking Festival' Programme will to be available to view. 'Walkers Are Welcome' will also be in attendance.</li> </ul>	<p>GS</p> <p>H B A H B A</p> <p>HB A/ KB</p> <p>HB A/ KB</p>
Walking Holiday 2025/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As our group holiday is not going ahead this year, there have been suggestions to approach other Walking Groups in different areas to see if they can assist with suggesting/leading walks. Potential accommodation which offers a B&amp; B and evening meal package would need investigating and options in the vicinity for non-walkers would also be considered.</li> <li>Suggested dates would be mid-March 2026.</li> </ul>	HB A
AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OS Maps: the password for OS Maps for the Walking Group would change after the AGM each year.</li> <li>Transport to Walks: Sometimes on the Walks Programme there will be an instruction to '<b>Meet leaders at the start of the walk</b>'. This is because the leaders live some distance from Ross and cannot come to Wilton. In these cases, those wishing to walk need to make sure that they can find the start point. You can use the information on the programme. If you have a problem with this, contact the Walk Leader in advance for advice. Please don't assume that there will always be someone at Wilton to tell you how to get to the start of the walk. If you do not have access to transport we hope that there will be enough spaces in cars from Wilton, it may be worth liaising with members in advance. Kath will send this information to members via 'Contact all members.'</li> </ul>	<p>BC</p> <p>KB</p>
Date of next meeting	<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b> 10am at No.3 The Walled Garden Graces Pitch, Newent GL18 1EW	All

#### Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Present	Kath Baldwin (chair), Gail Spolton, Bob Carter, Carol Endersby, Mike Adye, Phil Lear and Cindy Smith	Action
Apologies	Gill James	
Minutes of the last meeting	These were agreed and signed by Kath as a true record of the meeting held on 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2025.	
Matters arising	Treasurer's report from meeting 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 which had not been able to be read was circulated and approved.	
Membership and	Cindy has received from Don a list of members who have renewed and also has a list of those who have not renewed at present. Kath will send out a message to all members	CS KB

Treasurer's report	<p>reminding that subs are now overdue. Please pay by 31<sup>st</sup> May. The password for OS maps is only to be shared with paid-up members.</p> <p>Cindy is currently still unable to access the bank account although Don thinks he has done everything necessary.</p> <p>Rosemary has asked for a list of renewed members for the walk stats. Cindy will let Rosemary have a list of names only who have not renewed by 31<sup>st</sup> May.</p> <p>Donation to Sports Club for use of their car park. Agreed we send them the same amount as we donated last year. Minutes of meeting 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024 show this to be £100. Kath agreed to check this with Diane and Don. Phil offered to find out who is the current Chairman or Treasurer of the Sports Club.</p> <p>Balance at 30<sup>th</sup> April was £3,234.97</p>	KB PL
Walk co-ordinator's Report	<p>There is a shortage of walks planned for June. Kath will add this to Chairman's Chat.</p> <p>Bob will highlight gaps in the programme on website.</p> <p>Bob submitted for the Committee 4 graphs showing number of walks provided by the group from February to May, the walk grade, the distance travelled from Ross and the miles walked. Bob has also produced a list of Annual walks and a list of 60 classic walks from the last 4 years, which also showed how long since the walk was last on the programme.</p> <p>There has been one request for the OS maps password. Members who have not renewed by 31<sup>st</sup> May will be deleted from OS maps.</p> <p>The way of reserving a walk on the programme has changed. There is now no forward planner. Reserved dates for walks will be shown in yellow and confirmed walks will have a pink heading. There has only been positive feedback on this.</p> <p>Carol suggested that she and Frank would put on a walk up Coppett Hill where there is a crash site. Carol will speak to Ruth who has knowledge of this.</p> <p>Kath will remind members to take a look at the archives on the website for ideas of walks.</p> <p>Bob has updated the walks leaders list.</p> <p>Walk leaders Training to be added to the agenda for next meeting.</p> <p>No incident forms had been received. Kath will remind members in Chairman's chat that first aid kits should be carried and walk leaders should have a whistle.</p> <p>Hi-vis jackets need to be worn when road walking is necessary. It is thought Mary Sears has one, Kath has one and Mike has two.</p> <p>Daffodil Walks books. Kath has one, who has the other two?</p>	<p>KB</p> <p>BC</p> <p>CE</p> <p>KB</p> <p>KB</p>
Social Events	<p>Summer Social. Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Mike will arrange a short walk of 2.5 – 3 miles from the Yew Tree departing at 10.30a.m. Harry is organizing food for 12.30p.m.</p> <p>Round the Gardens. Jan L. is dealing with this for sometime July/August. Hosts have been approached.</p> <p>Day out Corfe Castle. It was suggested that as there is no group holiday this year we might consider a day out to visit Corfe Castle, Ludlow. This is a National Trust property where walks of various lengths could be available or simply a visit to the castle. It was thought that August/September might be a good time. Bob and Mike agreed to look into this.</p> <p>Skittles Evening. To be discussed at next meeting. Possible venues could be Royal Oak, Ledbury or Larrupertz.</p> <p>The Sports Club are holding a quiz evening on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May to which Ross Walking group are invited. Teams of 4 -6, £5 per person.</p>	<p>MA</p> <p>MA BC</p>
AGM Planning	<p>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2026. Phil will enquire with Ross Bowling Club regarding availability and cost for the AGM to be held there. Also whether they could serve food. Kath will make the same enquiries at the Larrupertz and Conservative Club.</p>	PL KB
Walking holiday 2026	<p>Harry has booked a hotel in Sidmouth for 12<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026. There are currently 36 people booked for the hotel and 2 staying locally. A £20 deposit has been paid for each booking with the balance required by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026. Harry has also been in contact with a walking group in Sidmouth who are keen to assist. There is an outline plan of walks for the weekend including longer coastal walks and shorter morning or afternoon walks.</p>	

	It was agreed that the compensation rate should be increased to 20pence per mile and £30 per person per night.	
AOB	There were no other items of business.	
Date of next meeting	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> July 10.00a.m. at 2 The Walled Garden, Ross on Wye, HR9 7GX	

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025 DRAFT

Present	Kath Baldwin (chair), Gail Spolton, Mike Adye, Bob Carter, Carol Endersby, Gill James and Phil Lear	Action
Apologies	Cindy Smith	
Minutes of the last meeting	There was a correction to the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 of the planned day out is to Croft Castle and not Corfe Castle. Following this correction the minutes were signed by Kath as a true record of the meeting.	
Matters arising	There were no matters arising which are not covered elsewhere.	
Membership and Treasurer's report	Cindy has sent updated lists of current paid up members and financial report. Members who have still not renewed have been removed from membership list. The current membership stands at 102 members and 3 life members making a total of 105 Balance at 13 <sup>th</sup> July was £3,957.98 Thanks were expressed to Cindy (in her absence) for the accounts.	CS
Walk co-ordinator's Report	Bob had produced graphs for the period of February to July showing the number of walks, the walk grades, the distance travelled from Ross and the number of miles walked as a group. He has also compared this information to last year and it is very similar. Members have started to grade their walks using the new gradings and Bob is happy that this seems to be working. The walk planned for the Sugar Loaf has been cancelled. It was felt that some members were keen to do this walk and therefore Bob agreed to speak to Saleha Way about the possibility of putting this walk on later in the year, when the weather could be cooler. Andy Smith and Phil Lear are hoping to repeat their waterfall walk in September. There are 2 walks planned for July where the distance travelled from Ross is over 20 miles. Walk Leaders training. Kath will organize this, possibly for late October. Kath read an email received from Martin Shepley about guidance for walk leaders in hot weather. Most of the advice is also in our own walk leaders guidance. Kath will remind members to check the advice in Chairman's Chat and will include this in the new Walk Leaders training. Carol requested that the Walk Leaders list be sent out. Bob will get Harry to send this. No incident forms had been received.	BC  BC BC SW  AS PL  KB KB  BC HBA

Social Events	Summer Social. Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2025. Mike will arrange a short walk of 2.5 – 3 miles from the Yew Tree departing at 10.30a.m. Harry is organizing food for 12.30p.m.	MA
	Round the Gardens. Jan L. is organizing this for Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> August 2025.	JL
	Day out Croft Castle, Ludlow. This is a National Trust property where walks of various lengths could be available or simply a visit to the castle. Mike has a few different possible walks and there is the opportunity to visit the castle or just do your own thing.	MA
	Skittles Evening. Kath had enquired about using the Royal Oak but felt this was expensive. The Conservative Club will charge £5 per head with sausage and chips and use of the skittle alley for the evening. Kath will check availability with the Conservative Club for late September or early October. Carole and Bob offered to help to sort participants into teams.	KB BC CE
	Other Events. Christmas Lunch. Bob offered to organize this with the Axe and Cleaver.	BC
	New Years Lunch. Old Court, Whitchurch. Harry organized this for Jan 2025. Bob offered to speak to Harry and Bob and Mike will assist.	BC MA
AGM Planning	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2026. Phil had enquired at Ross Bowling Club but we would need to arrange our own food. Kath had enquired at Larrupertz where we would have to join and was quite expensive. The Conservative Club is available and will offer a buffet for £8.50 per head. It has been booked for arrival from 11.30am with coffee available for £1.50 Cash will be required to pay for coffee. The AGM will commence at 12 noon and lunch will be at 1p.m. We will need a short walk before. Kath will ask Mary Sears and Chris Sutton.	PL KB KB
Walking holiday 2026	Harry had submitted a proposed itinerary of possible walks from lunchtime on Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 to the morning of Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 for consideration by the Committee. It was felt that some of the more strenuous walks should be omitted from the plan but this still left a varied choice of walks.	HBA
AOB	Hi-vis jackets. Kath has had 7 hi-vis jackets from Pauline. Carole and Bob have each taken 2 to be available for walk leaders to borrow. Daffodil Walks Books. Kath has these which are for use by the group. Posters. Kath also had posters to encourage membership. Phil took 1 for Micheldean library, Carole took 1 for Newent library and Gail has spare copies including laminated ones. Membership Cards. Kath has these and will hopefully be able to distribute some at the Summer Social. List of possible walks for new leaders. This was a suggestion from Mike. Mike and Bob will look at preparing this. Slower Walkers. Phil suggested that walk leaders need to be reminded that slower walkers may need time to catch up with the group and also need a chance to catch their breath especially after a long uphill section. Kath will remind members in Chairman's Chat. Gail and Kath will look at updating walk leaders guidance.	KB CE BC KB PL CE GS KB MA BC KB G
Date of next meeting	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October 10.00a.m. at 8 St Bridgets Close, Bridstow, Ross on Wye, HR9 6PX	
	Signed..... Date.....	

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025 DRAFT

Present	Kath Baldwin (chair), Gail Spolton, Mike Adye, Bob Carter, Carol Endersby, Cindy Smith and Phil Lear	Action
Apologies	Apologies were received from Gill James	
Minutes of the last meeting	The minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2025 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were signed by Kath.	
Matters arising	Cindy has agreed with Harry that a membership card will not be issued to a new member until she has confirmed that the appropriate membership fee has been received. RWG posters are in GP surgeries in Micheldean and Much Birch and also in Pendean surgery in Ross.	
Membership and Treasurer's report	There have been no new members since the last meeting. After paying the insurance renewal and OS maps subscription the balance at 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 was £3,080.95	CS
Walk co-ordinator's Report	Bob had produced graphs for the period of February to December showing the number of walks, the walk grades, the distance travelled from Ross and the number of miles walked as a group. There have been very few gaps in the program since July although at the present time there are plenty of gaps for December. The most popular grade of walk is either a grade 3 or 4 with the same number of each in November. Bob also supplied a graph showing the Cumulative Person Miles Walked compared to last year which is very similar. It was suggested that it might be possible sometimes to combine an easy peasy walk with a grade 3 or 4 walk. Bob is already looking at this.  Walk Leaders Training. This was ably led by Bob with 3 helpers. Nine members attended. Due to the weather it was held in the Petanque huts and it was agreed that we make a donation of £15 for the use of these.  OS maps. A date of Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 has been agreed to run a session to help members to use OS maps on their phones. Heartstart Course. Kath completed an online form to book a Heartstart course for Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 10am . This will be held at the meeting room at the Yew Tree. A booking form will go on the website in due course. The easy peasy walks seem to be going okay. No incident forms had been received.	BC  BC  BC  MA KB CS
Social Events	The recent Petanque morning had not been well attended but the Skittles evening had proved popular enough to cover the costs, after booking being slow to start with. Round the Houses. Jean Harrison is planning the walk and stopping points. Cake is required for the final point and Carol, Mike and Gail all offered to bake and Kath will approach some other members who may be able to provide a cake. Christmas Walk and Lunch. Bob has booked the Axe and Cleaver for our Christmas meal for Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2025. The booking form is on the website and already there are 17 members booked. It is suggested that each diner contributes a £1 donation. New Years Walk and Lunch. This will again be at the Old Court, Whitchurch on Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2026. The booking form for this is	JH CE MA GS KB  BC  BC

	<p>on the website. There are no bookings as yet. Bob will possibly lead the same walk as this year, although he would like to include a grade 1 walk of approximately 2 miles.</p> <p>Summer Social. A provisional date of 14<sup>th</sup> July 2026 has been suggested for our Summer Social. Cindy will checked and book the Yew Tree and arrange the catering for this.</p>	CS
AGM Planning	<p>Our AGM will take place at the Conservative Club in Ross on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026. Mary S and Chris will lead a short walk before the meeting. The cost will be £8.50 for the buffet and coffee will be supplied at a separate cost of £1.50 in cash.</p> <p>Gill J, Kath and Carol retire from the Committee at the AGM.</p>	
Walking holiday 2026	<p>Harry is going to Sidmouth where he will recce some of the planned walks. Kath will arrange a meeting in the New Year to plan the evening entertainment. Gail will keep a list of members who could be interested in going on the holiday if cancellations arise.</p>	HBA KB GS
AOB	<p>Final Report Gates Project. Mike had sent the final report by Walkers are Welcome on their project to replace many stiles with gates. It was agreed that we send an acknowledgement to John Smart for all his hard work on this project. Kath will get and send a card.</p> <p>Walkers are Welcome. Mike is on this Committee which has strong links with the Ramblers. Mike suggests that we have a formal link with this group and he would be happy to be our representative on their Committee.</p>	KB
Date of next meeting	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 10.00a.m. at Treonnen, Three Ashes, Ross on Wye, HR2 8LU	
	<p>Signed.....</p> <p>Date.....</p>	