

## Ross and District Walking Group

### Minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> AGM Meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Apologies	Ian and Jan Beaton, Gill and Stuart Blows, Harry Britten Austin, Brian Bunting, Geoff Cooper, Sue Dowdeswell, Carol and Frank Endersby, Kevin and Linda Graddon, Mary Hacker, Katrina McIntosh, John Smart, Jane Wright.	
Present	Mike Adye and Sally Adye, Kath Baldwin, Penny Bowyer, Ronnie Bunting, Bob Carter, Roy Cooke, Sue Edney, Christopher Glenn, Steve Hall, Jean Harrison, Ruth Harrison, Janet and Rob Horton-Smith, Martin Hudson, Phil Lear, Jan Lelievre, David Mason, Dave McIntosh, Gill and John Moxham, Brenda and Norman Pomfret, Mary Richards, Mary Sears, Beverley Sinclair, Jenny Sinclair, Hilary Smart, Andy Smith, Cindy Smith, Gail Spolton, Chris Sutton, Rosemary Sutton, Margaret and Roger Williams, Helen Willingham, Don and Margaret Wood.	
Minutes of the last meeting	The minutes of the last AGM held on Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 were agreed and signed by Kath as a true record of the meeting.	
Chairman's Report	<p>Kath Baldwin, in the chair, welcomed members to the meeting before giving her report.</p> <p>This is my final year as Chairman of Ross Walking Group. It has been a busy three years, and I am looking forward to a rest, but still remain committed to the aims of the Group, the main one being, "to familiarize members with the enjoyment of walking together in the countryside."</p> <p>We still have over 100 members although not all of these are regular walkers. However, our walks are usually well supported even in the difficult muddy and rainy conditions we have experienced at the beginning of 2026. I think the record for the muddiest walk may now have been taken by Harry's Kilpeck Mudfest Walk in February! Other suggestions welcome! As usual, I need to appeal to all members to consider leading a walk, even if it is just a short one, as some of our walk leaders have "retired" due to ill health or increasing age. We need new people to lead if the group is to continue in a healthy state. We tried to have a training session for walk leaders at the beginning of April, but this had to be postponed as no one was able to come on that date. It will be rearranged on a future date. The idea is for people to be able to ask about any aspect of arranging a walk for the Group.</p> <p>A new innovation, started by Rosemary, is "Easy Peasy" walks, which has been well received, especially by those unable to walk too far these days. If you enjoy these, why not organize one yourself! Don't forget that these can take place on the same day as a longer walk.</p> <p>There have been various other events during the year. We had our Summer Social in July at the Yew Tree, with the usual wonderful food from Hilary and the Broome Farm Team, and lovely walks round the Broome Farm Orchards. We also visited these in May to see the blossom and share cream teas, also provided by Hilary and her team.</p> <p>As there was no holiday in 2025, we had a Day Out at Croft Castle which was well supported. There were led walks and opportunities for visiting the castle or self guided walks, which offered something for all. Thanks to Bob Carter and Sally and Mike Adye for their organization. We also had a successful Skittles Evening and Bob Carter organized a map reading session which was well attended and appreciated.</p> <p>Other social events included a Christmas lunch and walk and a New Year lunch and walk. The Committee has discussed whether it is a good idea to have two meal events so close together and I will leave a decision on this to the new Committee. A Petanque taster session was also organized, but only one person took part, so the Committee decided it was probably not a good idea to have one next year.</p>	

	<p>It has become more difficult to arrange the Christmas Round the Houses event as not many people are prepared to host this. We will discuss this later in the meeting.</p> <p>Probably the highlight of the year was our recent Walking Holiday to Sidmouth. We had a lovely hotel and there was a good programme of walks. Apart from the first afternoon, we were also blessed with excellent weather for walking. I think everyone enjoyed themselves and the Group owes a big “Thank You” to Harry Britten Austin for all his hard work in organizing it.</p> <p>Harry started a WhatsApp group for the people going on the holiday to Sidmouth and has now converted this to be a group for all members. The purpose of this is so that if a walk has to be cancelled at short notice this information will be sent to members via this route. It is NOT intended to be a channel for chatting to other members or replying to information posted there. If people do that it becomes an annoying ping on people’s phones which can cause some to leave the WhatsApp group. The link on the website to contact members has been turned off, so that if information is to be shared with the group, please use WhatsApp in future.</p> <p>We have arranged a First Aid Course for members in May and this is now fully booked.</p> <p>It just remains for me to thank everyone who has contributed to the group in any way. This includes the Committee, walk leaders, event organizers and a special thank you to Harry and Bob for their work on the website which often goes unseen and of course to Harry for organizing this year’s holiday. Thank you all for coming to this meeting and thank you to all who share their company with us on the walks.</p>	
<p>Treasurer’s report and Membership report.</p>	<p>Cindy gave the financial report showing the general Account Funds and assets of £3,117.81 The main item to note is that HSBC have waived their bank charges giving us an extra £5 per month. A vote of thanks was expressed to Cindy and also to Geoff Cooper who audited the accounts. Geoff is happy to do this again next year and this was agreed.</p> <p>Cindy reported that we have a membership of 80 members who had renewed to date, 3 have decided not to renew. At present there are still 27 members who have not renewed. Cindy expressed her thanks to Harry for his assistance and producing the membership cards.</p>	
<p>Walk co-ordinator’s Report</p>	<p>First, I would like to thank everyone who put on walks during the year in particular the new leaders for taking the initiative to put on walks and also the established leaders for putting on walks during periods of bad weather. Special thanks go to Rosemary for all the work she has done in collecting and collating the walks data, the results of which are displayed here today.</p> <p><b>No of Walks:</b></p> <p>We achieved 91 walks out of a potential 107 available slots, a little down on last year. I believe the major reason for why we are down this year has been down to the weather, the recent wet winter and last year’s very hot summer has resulted in a number of cancelled walks. This also has had the knock-on effect of making reccies more difficult.</p> <p>This year I have been recording a new walking statistic called “Cumulative Person Miles walked” for each month. For each walk we have recorded the number of walkers times by the distance walked and totalled it for each month. We can use this to compare how we did in the previous year. There is a graph displaying this and other stats for throughout the year.</p> <p><b>New Grade system:</b></p> <p>Feedback indicates that the new walking grade system has gone down well, with a number of walks at the new grade 4 level being undertaken. I am a little concerned that some members</p>	

	<p>may be put off by the higher grade walks. This is where a good walk description is important with some details of the terrain needed.</p> <p><b>Walk Length and Distance from Ross:</b></p> <p>Continual assessment of the walk length indicated that the most popular length is between 5 and 7 miles. Surprisingly members are not put off by having walks some distance from Ross, the majority of walks are between 5 and 15 miles from Ross. Remember, it's easier to find a new walk further away from Ross as there's a larger area to explore.</p> <p><b>Easy Peasy Walks</b></p> <p>These walks have been very popular with less able members. Obviously these walks tend to be closer to Ross. An area that we need to explore more is combined grade walks. This happened with the day out at Croft Castle and proved to very popular. We hope to repeat something similar this year.</p> <p><b>Walk Booking System and Communications:</b></p> <p>During this last year we simplified the booking system, it's now much easier to see if there is a reserved walk on the system. We also added provision for booking "Easy Peasy Walks". The use of a WhatsApp group initially for the holiday and now for general use has already been a great help, in particular on walk days for arranging lifts at Wilton. I am sure it will help greatly with last minute messages during periods of inclement weather.</p> <p><b>OS Maps&amp; Map Reading:</b></p> <p>The OS maps facility provided by the group is a great tool for everyone, not just walk leaders. A map reading course was held during the year to encourage new leaders. Please remember we will be changing the password after the AGM, sheets are available with the new password.</p>	
Walking Statistics	<p>In the period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025 to end of February 2026 we have done a total of 91 walks, so that was up on last year when we did 83. Grade 1 walks we did 4, and had an average of 17 walkers, Grade 2 – 18 with the average number of walkers being 15, Grade 3 – 49, with the average number of walkers also being 15, Grade 4 – 19, the average again being 15 and one Grade 5 which had 8 walkers sprinting up Sugar Loaf.</p> <p>Top 3 walks with the most members not including the AGM and Summer Social which had 26 and 28 respectively, were the Severn Bore 1<sup>st</sup> April with 24, and 22 for Meandering from the Chapel of the Arts and Craft Church on 11 March, Mallard Pike on 18 March, Kempley Daffodils on 20 March, and Highnam Bluebell Walk on 22 April and again 22 on the bus Walk to Newent and Gorsley on 22 May.</p> <p>Last year we included some Easy Peasy walks for members who would like to do a walk but for whatever reasons need an easy walk, preferably with no stiles. We did 4 last year – Brampton Abbots in October with 14 members, Coughton Marsh also in October with 18 members, a very interesting Historical tour around Monmouth in December, with 9 members, and Brampton Abbots again in January when it was an addition to the walk alongside the river from Wilton and on that section of the walk we had 18 members.</p> <p>Bob as done some graphs for me to show the number of walks between various lengths, as well as graphs showing the average number of members who walked the various distances. There are also graphs showing the number of walker per grade and the number of walks by grade.</p> <p>As usual I've done the stats which will show each of you how many miles you have actually walked during the period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025 to 28 February 2026.</p>	

	<p>If a member had walked every walk on the programme they would have walked 495.05 miles.</p> <p>Now the most important part which I know you have all been wanting to hear – who has won the two important categories this year.</p> <p>Most walks led: Top 3 are: a tie for second place between Harry and Mary Richards with 12 but the winner with 15 walks is Bob Carter.</p> <p>And then we have who’s walked the most number of walks (not distance)- in 3rd place Ruth Harrison 56 walks totalling 286.2 miles, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Carol Endersby 67 walks totalling 383.15 miles, and top of the list (drum roll) ... Mary Sears 71 walks totalling 395.35 miles.</p> <p>Mary Sears was duly presented with “Monty” – the group’s knitted walker and Bob was presented with a framed copy of a song written by Dianne Hudson especially for the groups 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary which had been decorated and framed by Frank Endersby. Mary thanked everyone who gives her lifts to the walks.</p>	
Election of Officers	<p>President: Gill Moxham  Chair: Mike Adye - proposed by Andy Smith, seconded by Jan Beaton  Secretary; Gail Spolton – proposed by Penny Bowyer, seconded by Mary Sears  Treasurer: Cindy Smith – proposed by Peter Gratton, seconded by Harry Britten-Austin  Walks Co-ordinator; Bob Carter – proposed by Harry Britten-Austin, seconded by Jan Beaton  Committee Member: Phil Lear- proposed by Martin Hudson, seconded by Clive Davies  Committee Member: Dave McIntosh- proposed by Kevin Graddon, seconded by Linda Graddon  Committee Member: Sue Edney- proposed by Katrina McIntosh, seconded by Linda Graddon.</p> <p>There being only one nomination for each role, the new Committee were elected unopposed.</p> <p>Kath Baldwin retires as Chair and she was presented with a floral arrangement on behalf of the Committee and membership in grateful thanks for her service over the last three years. Carol Endersby also retired from the Committee and she will receive a box of chocolates to express our thanks for her service on the Committee.</p>	
Round the Houses	<p>It has become increasingly more difficult to find host venues for the annual “Round the Houses,” as members don’t have space to host large numbers. The Committee would therefore like to seek the views of the membership, with regards to continuing to offer this social activity.</p>	
Facebook Page	<p>It has been suggested that the group should have a Facebook page. It is thought that this may help in recruiting new members as we only had 4 new members join us this year. The aim would be to post things we have done. It was pointed out that not all members use Facebook. It would also require the skills of someone from the group who would be able and prepared to do this.</p>	
	<p>The meeting concluded at 12.40pm.</p>	
	<p>Signed.....</p> <p>Date.....</p>	

Attached:

25/26 Statement of Accounts

Stats summary for 25/26

**ROSS AND DISTRICT WALKING GROUP**

Statement of Accounts for Year 01 April 2025 to 31 March 2026


as at 31st March 2026

	2024-25	2025-26		
	£	£		
<b>Receipts</b>				
Subscriptions 2024/25	285.00			
Subscriptions 2025/26	275.00	230.00		
Subscriptions 2026/27		300.00		
AGM 2024	26.00			
AGM 2025	429.00	13.00		
AGM 2026		210.00		
Summer social	1000.22	675.00		
Holiday 2024	100.00			
Holiday 2026	600.00	9681.20		
New year lunch	660.00	416.50		
Skittles evening		137.50		
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>3375.22</b>	<b>11663.20</b>		
<b>Payments</b>				
AGM 2024	686.74			
AGM 2025		442.00		
AGM 2026		30.00		
Summer Social	900.00	675.00		
Holiday 2024	138.77			
Holiday 2026 (incl prizes)		10296.14		
Insurance	100.80	100.80		
IT expenses	55.19	55.19		
Parking donations	257.00	70.00		
OS Maps Subscription	28.99	28.99		
Charitable donations	200.00	20.00		
Bank Charges	60.00	25.00		
New year lunch	680.00	416.50		
Skittles evening (incl prizes)		144.74		
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>3107.49</b>	<b>12304.36</b>		
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>3375.22</b>	<b>11663.20</b>		
<b>Payments</b>	<b>-3107.49</b>	<b>-12304.36</b>		
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>267.73</b>	<b>-641.16</b>		
<b>Funds &amp; Assets as at end of</b>				
	FY 2024/25	FY 2025/26		
Current Account	3938.97	3297.81	Funds b/f	3938.97
Cash	0	0	Surplus	-641.16
<b>Total Funds &amp; Assets</b>	<b>3938.97</b>	<b>3297.81</b>	Funds c/f	<b>3297.81</b>
Less payments held for AGM lunch	-429.00	-180.00		
Less payments held for Holiday 26	-600.00			
<b>General Account Funds &amp; Assets</b>	<b>2909.97</b>	<b>3117.81</b>		

Signed: Chairman Date:

Signed: Treasurer Date:

The above statements give a true and fair view of the Receipts and Payments of the Group based on the books and records presented to me.

Signed: 

Independent Examiner Dated: 6<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Summary 2025 - 2026**

No. of walks by Grade	
Grade	
5	1
4	19
3	49
2	18
1	4
Walks	91

Average number of walkers per Grade	
Grade	
5	8
4	15
3	15
2	15
1	17

No. of Walks by Distance	
0 - 3 miles	10
3 - 5 miles	20
5 - 7 miles	42
7 - 9 miles	19
9 miles +	0
Total	91

Average No. of walkers by RTVD

RTVD	Ave No of walkers
£0	16
£1 +	14
£2 +	14
£3 +	15
£4 +	14
£5 +	13

No. of walks by RTVD

RTVD	No. of walks
£0	22
£1 +	22
£2 +	21
£3 +	15
£4 +	3
£5 +	6

Average number of Walkers by distance

	Ave
1 mile	7
2 - 4 miles	16
4 - 5 miles	16
5 miles	12
5 - 6 miles	15
6 - 7 miles	14
7 - 8 miles	15
8 miles	14