

Chairman's Chat May 2026. (A message from Mike Adye)

Dear Members

We have had a beautiful April. The walk diary has been full on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the month with walkers enjoying the daffodils and bluebells.

It was good to see so many members at the AGM on 16 April, and a good turn out for the walk prior to the meeting. Thank you for all of your support for me and the rest of the Committee. Two new members joined your Committee at the AGM. Your Committee is now:

Gill Moxham	President
Mike Adye	Chair
Gail Spolton	Secretary
Cindy Smith	Treasurer
Bob Carter	Walks Coordinator
Phil Lear	Committee Member
Dave McIntosh	Committee Member
Sue Edney	Committee Member

The Committee held their first meeting at the end of April. As usual minutes of both the AGM and the recent Committee meeting will be posted on the website in due course.

The Committee considered a number of issues at their first meeting. These included:

- Social activities for the coming year
 - There has been a lack of support for the New Year's dinner in recent years so this will no longer be held. The pre Christmas dinner will continue.
 - Similarly organisers have found it increasingly difficult to find hosts for the round the houses event in the winter. This will no longer be held.
- The RTVD will be retained at its current 10p/mile rate for the time being while fuel prices are so volatile.
- The graphs prepared from walk statistics maintained by Rosemary and presented at the AGM are now on the website for your information and perusal. These are a very useful way of monitoring the activities of the Group. A big thank you to Rosemary for keeping all those records and showing that information in an understandable form.

Phil Lear has kindly agreed to take on the role of Group events coordinator. Thank you Phil. His role will be the coordination of all of the Group's social events. This does not mean that he will organise them. If you have any ideas for new social events, or would be happy to organise one of the regular events, Phil would love to hear from you.

A big thank you also to all those who have put on walks over the past several months and have walks in the future programme. This includes both walk leaders and back markers. Walks are well attended and the group relies on a programme of regular walks. Members new to leading walks, or who are thinking about leading walks in the future, are welcome to seek advice and support from any of the Committee members. A leader's training session will be arranged if members are interested, however you may also learn a lot from talking to members who frequently lead walks and accompanying them on reccies. Also a huge thank you to Mary Sears for providing the majority of the photos that make up the Group gallery. They are a wonderful record of the many walks that the Group has done.

We are aware that there has recently been a bit of a hiccup with the system of getting walks onto the walk programme. Apologies to anyone who has experienced this as it is frustrating. The Committee is aware of the issue and looking at ways to make the system more reliable. If you do fill in the walks form, your walk should find its way onto the programme with 48 hours. If you check and it is not on the programme after that period please contact one of the Committee members or Harry.

Happy walking

Mike