

Helensburgh and West Dunbartonshire Ramblers 28th AGM

Held in Helensburgh Parish Church on

15th November 2025 at 2pm

David thanked everyone for attending the meeting which has slightly increased in numbers this year.

Minutes.

Present

28 members attended.

1. Apologies – Wendy Jones, Fiona McPherson, Peter Knox, Ian McCall, Margaret Porter, Leslie Williams, Bronach Hughs, Tony Lorrimer.

2. Minutes of the AGM held 9th November 2024.

No Comments

The minutes were proposed by Jack Tarr and Seconded by Gerry Marshall.

3. Convenor's Report

David reported on 5 areas:-

- Walking Programme
- Events we've held
- Group Membership
- Committee Matters
- Overview, future opportunities & challenges

Summary of Walking Programme

Thanks to all walk leaders, Mike Carder, Mike McManus & Idris.

We had more walks than last year – 56 up 6 – a 12% increase.

Total number out on walks has massively increased – 871 compared to 628 in the previous year – 39% increase.

Average number of walkers on walks has increased from 13 to 16.

Over a third of walks (36%) have been led by 2 walk leaders and over half by 4 leaders— particular credit to Idris – 11 walks.

Anyone who joined all 56 walks would have walked 740km, the equivalent of walking from Helensburgh to Exeter. They would have climbed 25,500m, the equivalent of climbing Everest 2½ times or 25 Munros. Those are impressive statistics.

We managed to offer walks on all weekends.

The number of members joining each walk has been good.

Overall, a good record considering the challenges on walk leadership imposed by the Ramblers.

David thanked Idris for running the website and producing the statistics. Idris had 2322 photos submitted for the website and 452 were published.

The total walking distance of all the walks has increased which is a good sign.

Response to the 2025 Survey

A report summarising the results of the survey is on our website.

It shows a high degree of satisfaction with the walks programme.

Members appear to be happy to repeat walks quite frequently – 80% are happy to repeat walks after 2 years.

Survey did suggest that central meeting point(s) might be popular. – what are your views?

There was a bit of discussion regarding returning to having a Central Meeting Point for the arranging transport to the walks.

Questions were – Would it help drivers? How to get to the Meeting point? How to manage the start time? Would there be enough cars for the walkers?

Some felt that it would help new members and reduce parking problems.

A vote was taken and there were 9 for and 7 against a CMP. This will be taken to a committee meeting and addressed again.

Events

Riverhill coffee on Monday mornings.

Christmas meal at Toby Carvery, Strathclyde Park attended by 7.

Newton Stewart Walking trip – 19 walkers plus a few non walkers.

Another event which took place celebrated Alan leading his 100th walk for the group and Trish reaching her 90th led walk. A cake was taken along and enjoyed on Beinn Ghlas.

Group Membership

Membership has increased from 97 to 105 – an 8% increase.

Committee Membership

The committee membership has been stable at 10 members, but we could have 2 more.

Other than routine business, the roll-out of-Ramblers requirement on walk leaders has been the most significant issue for the committee.

All members are welcome to attend committee meetings.

Overview: Future opportunities and challenges.

Most metrics indicate that the group is thriving.

Limited social events. Is there an appetite for more? Members talked about whether there should be more social events. They felt the ones they had were fine and the after walk coffee was a social time as well.

The number of people who only come on 1 walk (29 in total but 19 for no obvious reason). This is a bit disappointing and wondered why this happened. We welcome new walkers and thought chatting about the next walk might encourage them to come along again. Having said that we have had more new members this year.

Continuity and long-term sustainability of the group is very fragile.

Relies too much on too few people with no obvious successors.

Most critical area is walk leadership. We are always looking for new Walk Leaders.

Other vital duties – Web Administrator, Treasurer, Convenor / Secretary.

Rambler's bureaucracy.

Becoming a Walk Leader

This is easy – It consists of 2 online courses: -

Walk Leadership Foundations & Preventing and Managing Incidents.

Read and sign-up to the Walk Leaders Handbook.

All our leaders have completed these.

A further course is the “Next Steps” available to leaders.

4. Treasurers Report

As Ian was unable to attend the meeting David read out the report and explained the accounts which Ian had emailed. Copies were available for members.

HWD RAMBLERS

TREASURERS REPORT 2024-2025.

We are in a healthy financial position with a 10% increase in funds over the last 12 months.

MAIN ACCOUNT.

The year finished with a balance of £1042.53 in our Main Account against £912.73 in the previous year.

Expenditure was slightly higher with a significant increase in Recce Payments being offset by much lower Meetings costs.

SELF FUNDING ACCOUNT

There was little activity this year apart from a generous booking payment from RWH Holidays. The account stands at £575.35 against last year's total of £435.35.

For the coming year we have designated funds up to £1000 specifically for Walk Leader Training, reflecting the requirements of the current Ramblers Policy in this regard. This will still allow reserves of around 20% at year end.

Ian McCall-Treasurer Nov 2025.

David went on to explain that the Recce money had been discussed at a committee meeting previously and a vote had been taken as to how many times the recce money could be claimed. The vote was in favour of unlimited recce claims being made. David asked that any member who objected to that arrangement to contact him.

The accounts were Proposed by Jack Tarr and Seconded by Roy Lewis.

5. Ordinary Motions

- a) Group business – no submissions
- b) Motions to the Area Annual General Meeting – no submissions
- c) Motions to the Scottish Council - No submissions.

6. Elections

The following committee members are all happy to continue in their posts:-

Honorary Officers

Convenor: David Clark

Vice Convenor: Ian McCall

Treasurer: Ian McCall: - Ian is stepping down from this position and Jack Tarr will take on the role. This will not happen until March/April due to the necessary bank arrangements for handing over the accounts, changing signatories etc.

Post holders and Committee Members

Membership Secretary: Mike McManus

Minute Secretary: Sheena Arendt

Publicity Officer and Web Administrator: Idris Scott

Access Officer: Pat Anguelov

Committee Members: Bernadette Devine

Social Media Administrator: Catherine Duda

These were all proposed by Karen Hill and seconded by Trish Schooling

Changes to the Committee

Walks Programme Coordinator: Mike Carder is stepping down from this position and John Gildea will take over.

Proposed by Mike Carder and Seconded by Jack Tarr.

Committee member: Gerry Marshall will join the committee

Proposed by Idris Scott and Seconded by David Clark.

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner(s)

Suzanne Caldwell is still happy to continue as independent examiner for the group.

Proposed by Ian McCall Seconded by David Clark

8. Election of Representatives to:

a) Area Council: - No submissions

b) Scottish Council: - 1 position. David Clark will continue in this position.

The next meeting will be on the 14th March 2026 in the John McIntyre Conference Centre, Edinburgh.

Proposed by Idris Scott Seconded by Jack Tarr

9. AOB

David thanked Mike Carder for his 6 years as Walks Programme Coordinator and presented him with a gift. Mike continues as a walk leader and he also received a Hi Vis vest with "Follow me, Walk Leader" printed on the back. This amused everyone and we await its first outing.

Mike thanked everyone for the gifts and thanked the walk leaders without whom there would not be any walks. He also encouraged other members to become walk leaders.

Tomorrow 16th November there is a First Aid training course arranged for some members.

As it is the Ramblers Scotland Diamond Jubilee this year we had a cake with the Ramblers logo on it to enjoy with our cup of tea after the meeting. During tea David showed some slides of our walks throughout the year.

The meeting closed at 3.30pm.