

Minutes of Chorley Ramblers AGM on Tuesday 18th November 2025 held at Halfway House, Preston Road, Clayton le Woods, Chorley PR6 7JB

APOLOGIES :- There were 31 people in attendance and apologies were received from William and Barbara Joyce, Martin and Susan Smalley, and Rod Parkinson.

MINUTES OF 2024 AGM :- Stephanie Pickup accepted these as read, seconded by John Sadikot.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT :- David Millington

Welcome to this year's Chorley Ramblers Group AGM and thank you to everybody for attending. This is my first AGM as Chairman, so I hope that you will be kind. At last year's AGM I sat there whilst Martin, who had announced that he was standing down as Chairman and was looking around the room for a replacement. I had hoped that someone else would volunteer but the moment passed unfulfilled. After some thought and prompting by Phil Gardner, who offered to become Vice Chairman, I notified Martin that I was willing to step into his shoes and at the next Committee Meeting my offer was accepted.

Currently the Committee is in a good shape as all the positions are filled and all have expressed a willingness to continue in their roles. In addition, we have co-opted Jack Sugden since it was considered that we would benefit from his wealth of experience. But please, don't rest on your laurels, as the next generation of committee members will be required in years to come.

Chorley Ramblers continue to be the largest group in the Mid Lancashire Area. Eileen will speak more about our membership later. Thank you, Eileen for looking after our membership and being our conduit of information to the group. Our finances are looking in good shape and more about that later from Dennis. Thank you, Dennis for all you do on our finances.

We run a very good programme of walks, offering in the main, a day walk on Saturday's and afternoon walks on Sunday's and Tuesday's. However, these walks are being led by a diminishing number of leaders, most leading several walks a month. There are now gaps appearing in our programme where no leader has been available so if there are any budding leaders out there, please let the committee know and we can assist you with the training and tuition. I have been leading walks of all types for various groups for over 50 years and I still get a buzz out of taking people out on routes new to them.

Our monthly coach walks continue to be very popular, and I thank Nigel for all that he does to ensure their continuing success. The Spring, Summer and Autumn months have seen these walks continue on The Pilgrim's Way in North Wales with good numbers completing each section, some of which have been quite tough. The weather this year has intervened such that a coach walk had to be cancelled but we will return to the route in the Spring. In the meantime, the Coach walks return to The Gritstone Trail for the Winter.

This summer we have been trying to vary the level of our afternoon walks by introducing a number of "Leisurely" graded walks to accommodate those who are new to the group and those who want a slower paced walk. These proved to be very successful, many led by Phil Gardner who used them as his rehabilitation after a major operation. Thank you, Phil for that and your contribution on the committee.

On some of our local walks comments are often made to the leaders about the state of some of the stiles we have to cross. Rod, our Footpath Co-Ordinator is unavailable this evening but I am sure that we should all make a better effort to report faults such that improvements can be made. Thank you, Rod for your continuing work.

The Chorley Ramblers Facebook page continues to be very popular with, as of the 18th November, 2835 people following. This is quite an increase from last years 1873 and I thank Martin for his input and monitoring.

This social media page puts us on the electronic map and is a good advertisement for our group. After each walk several members share their photographs on the page, showing us off in a good light.

Following on from last year's success in getting the 6 oak benches set up in Astley Park, paid for from the Terry Lewis' Legacy, your committee has been working towards getting more seats set up as we found last year, it is difficult to engage with the local area authorities. We have however met with potential success with Euxton Parish Council with whom we are in contact for 2 benches to be installed. One in Ransnap Wood and the other on the permissive path beside the River Yarrow beyond Euxton House. Paula is liaising with Debra Platt to get these installed so we hope that we will have good news later, thank you Paula. In addition, we have donated £500 to each of the local Mountain Rescue Teams, The Bowland and Pennine Team and the Bolton Team. We have also donated £500 to the North West Air Ambulance from the legacy. Thank you, Dennis for your efforts in this matter. These cover "our area" and we considered that they are good causes worth a contribution.

The Chorley Ramblers Website continues to run smoothly under guidance from Alan. Thank you, Alan. Walks are entered onto the Main Ramblers tool, Walk Manager, then published by Alan to appear on our website. I hope that you agree that the format of the walk information covers everything you would want to get to the start and understand what to expect from the walk. Thank you to all the leaders for inputting such clear information.

Whilst thanking members of the committee I mustn't forget to thank Lilian, who diligently minutes this meeting and our committee meetings and was instrumental in suggesting and arranging our speaker tonight. Thank you Lilian.

Finally a short course on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and the use of a Defibrillator has been arranged for the 30th January. An unfortunate incident occurred in Euxton in early September where a man

died from a heart attack. An NHS trainer offered on Facebook to teach people in the technique of CPR and the use of the Defibrillator. Paula made contact so a course has been arranged for primarily leaders, however if any members would like to participate, please let me know. The course should last about one hour.

Once again, thank you all for your participation in tonight's AGM and our walks throughout the year. I hope that you enjoy the talk by Derek Cartwright from the Horwich Heritage Centre later in the evening.

TREASURER'S REPORT Y/E 30th SEPTEMBER 2025 :- Dennis Wilson

* amended from handout at AGM due to calculation error *

<u>Prior 2024</u>		<u>Current 2025</u>
4401.37	Restricted (Terry Lewis a/c)	4401.37
170.73	Restricted (Chorley Circular)	170.73
3485.88	Main Account	3621.76
1755.64	Self-funded Coach a/c	2906.64
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9813.62*	TOTALS	11100.50*

Main income for whole year

Head Office Funding	450.10
Donations (RWH-Ramblers Holidays)	50.00
TSB Coach a/c Receipts (self - funded)	7900.50
TSB Coach a/c Meal Receipts (self-funded)	974.25

TOTALS	9374.85

Main Expenditure for whole year

Walk related (route sheets, map & guide books)	36.99
Admin Expenses (postage, printer paper & ink)	137.23
AGM Expenses (guest speaker & room hire)	190.00
TSB Coach a/c payments (Redline) self-funded	7325.00
TSB Coach a/c meal payments self-funded	974.25

TOTALS	8663.47

MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR Y/E 30TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Eileen Entwistle

For the last few years our membership figures have been as follows :-

Year ending 30th September 2021 - 366 members

Year ending 30th September 2022 - 367 members

Year ending 30th September 2023 - 366 members

Year ending 30th September 2024 - 341 members

Year ending 30th September 2025 - 360 members

I am pleased to report the Membership has risen slowly over the year and we now have 360 members as of 30th September. During this last year I have sent out 72 welcome letters to 88 new members and 2 affiliate members. An affiliate member is someone who is a member of another group but would like to receive our mailings. We now have 6 affiliate members. Included with the welcome letter from our Chairman is a copy of the Chorley Circular Walk leaflet and an ICE card for each member joining.

However, after welcoming 88 new members to our group, membership has only increased by 19. The majority who leave the group either resign, let their membership lapse or transfer to another Group or Area. At least 10 resigned within their first year of membership, some after 2 or 3 months of joining.

FOOTPATH REPORT :- Due to Rod Parkinson being unavailable for the meeting there is nothing to report however Rod is currently working on some changes to the reporting system.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

David Millington has agreed to continue in his role as Chairman. This was proposed by John Sadikot and seconded by Keith Pickup

The following are Committee Members in their respective positions elected at the previous AGM and have agreed to stand for re-election to the committee in their various capacities.

Vice - Chairman	Phil Gardner
Secretary	Paula Armstrong
Treasurer	Dennis Wilson
Minutes Secretary	Lilian Orme
Footpath Co-Ordinator	Rod Parkinson
Membership Secretary	Eileen Entwisle
Website Manager	Alan Cleator
Social Media Secretary	Martin Smalley

Proposed by Stephanie Pickup and seconded by Keith Pickup.

ELECTION OF AUDITOR

Thanks were given to John Warner for auditing our accounts and agreeing to audit our accounts for the year 2025 to 2026.

This was proposed by Alan Cleator and seconded by Sue Pointer.

The AGM was followed by an excellent talk and slide show on “175 years of the Rivington Reservoirs” by Derek Cartwright from The Horwich Heritage Centre.