



West Berkshire Ramblers Secretary's Report

November 2024 – October 2025

The committee for the West Berkshire Ramblers group was elected at the AGM on the 6th November 2024. The committee members are

Chair – Andrew Jackson

Secretary – Gillian Lawrence

Treasurer – Peter Bennett

Environmental Walking Officer – Graham Smith

Footpath Secretary – Neal Pike

Membership Secretaries – Robin Clugston/John Gardner

Publicity Officer – Jonathan Sayers

Walks Coordinator – Siân Williams/Debbie Bradshaw

Webmaster – Steve Collins

Events Coordinator – Shona Kelly

Committee Member - Eugene Fletcher

Due to personal reasons the Event's Coordinator, unfortunately, had to resign her position in the middle of the year. Following an email and canvassing of members, a new Social Secretary and Deputy have stepped forward and will be, hopefully, voted into position at the AGM.

The committee has met on six occasions since November 2024, with the majority of members attending on each occasion. All the meetings this year took place in the Phil Howe room at the Bowlers Arms. Each of the committee Officers have produced a report on their area of responsibility, which will be displayed at the AGM. These are also published on the West Berkshire Ramblers website. Anyone wishing to view the Minutes of this year's committee meetings should contact secretary@wberksramblers.org.uk

Topics covered within the meetings have included how we should respond to consistent footpath closure issues, how we can support and encourage new walkers and what social activities we can offer our members, such as this year's meal out, the quiz evening, the Wilton Windmill visit and the walking holiday in the Elan Valley. In order to support our walk leaders a First Aid course was organised in October of which 12 of our walk leaders attended.

As part of the secretary's role, Head Office has been kept informed of personnel changes within the group's volunteer sector, in particular, those members who wish to volunteer as part of the Footpath Working Party.

Of importance is also how we react and incorporate directives from Ramblers Head Office, making sure we follow the Ramblers Core Values. This year Head Office has implemented a series of training videos designed to support our walk leaders. These are now mandatory for those walk leaders who have led less than twelve walks and the committee will look at ways to support walk leaders if help is required to access these training modules.

Head Office have also produced new, smaller ICE cards this year. It is recommended that all walkers carry one of these cards. They will be available at the AGM or from secretary@wberksramblers.org.uk