

RTG Chair's Report 2025

I am sad to report that David Guest died earlier this year. He is dearly missed, both as a great walk leader and as a friend to many. His memorial walk, on a glorious July day, was attended by 29 members who met with his family for tea and cakes in the sunshine at the end of the walk.

We continue to have a varied programme of great walks. On Thursdays, walks are usually around 8 to 10 miles, with up to 2000 feet of ascent. We often travel an hour or so to the Peaks, the E Lancs / W Yorks moors, or N Wales. Occasionally we have two walks, especially if one is more strenuous or leisurely than our usual.

We have enjoyed 10 evening walks over the spring and summer, mainly in good weather. These walks were around 5 miles or so, more local to Trafford, and always ended at a pub to enjoy an evening drink. We attracted some new members via these walks.

The Saturday Strolls on alternate weeks continue to be very popular, often attracting the largest number of walkers. They are shorter, more leisurely and closer to home than the Thursday walks, and finish with a café or pub stop.

Socially, we had another successful week in Keswick in May with over 30 members, partners and friends from other groups joining the trip. We had 10 walks of various grades from Monday to Thursday. Participants booked their own accommodation but met up for walking and, almost as importantly, socialising in the various pubs and restaurants in Keswick during the week. Plans for Ambleside '26 are already in progress. We have also had another "overnighter" (where we travel a little further afield and walk two days with an overnight stay) this time to Llanberis in September. Our forthcoming Christmas walk, and winter lunch walk are in the diary, as is the Strollers' Christmas meal.

Earlier this year we appointed Tony Reynolds as our footpath secretary, a post that had been vacant for over two years. He has recruited nine new inspectors meaning all the footpaths in Trafford are now allocated to an inspector, and will hopefully be able to reinstate the path maintenance working party in the coming months. I would like to thank Tony for the great progress he has made in re-igniting this important work.

This year we have had two resignations from the committee: Frances Bennett (treasurer); and Kath Smith (membership secretary). I would like to thank them for their valuable contributions to the committee, and all the other committee members and walk leaders for their time in supporting our group.

Katharine Thorley

20 Oct 2025