

Ramblers Trafford Group AGM, 2025

Secretary's Report

Notes of the RTG committee meetings continue to be made available to all members through our web site. Our social WhatsApp group is used to communicate news that might be of interest.

Along with Kath Thorley, I have attended committee meetings of the Greater Manchester and High Peak (GMHP) Area Ramblers group. These continue to be useful for learning about developments at Ramblers headquarters and activities being developed by other groups within our area.

Key themes of the last 12 months have been:

Introduction of mandatory **online training for walk leaders**. Initially this caused concerns but Rosie has been very supportive to RTG members undertaking the training and nearly all of RTG's walk leaders have now completed the modules. This has also led to an informal half day session on managing incidents which will be taking place later this month.

A focus on **first aid training** has also emerged. Stockport recently organised two sessions for their members and offered spare places to other groups. Rosie and I attended an interesting and very practical day in October. A will to undertake more joint events is emerging and Area meetings offer opportunity to develop positive relationships.

Review of Ramblers Governance. It is proposed that every member will be able to attend the AGM online rather than it being run by General Council and the composition of the Board of Trustees will be updated. Area groups would be replaced by regional 'gatherings' or clusters once or twice a year. There has been opposition to this and also the lack of detail about how the proposed new system would operate and be accountable.

The GMHP group works well, having gained traction with statutory and political bodies. The latest news is that the timetable for the introduction of reform is being shelved whilst further consultation takes place. Our Area representative has been asked to take a significant role in this following the detailed comments that have been fed back to headquarters.

The **GM Ringway** continues to prosper and is actively looking at ways to raise sufficient funds to ensure ongoing maintenance and publicity.

Carers walks are proving very successful. They receive good publicity via Carers Manchester.

Jan Moore, October 2025