

Trafford Ramblers AGM 2025

Walks reports November 2024 to October 2025

Weekday walkers report:

- In the past year at least one walk was offered each Thursday, apart from weeks when most of the group were away on trips to the Lake District or North Wales, and one week when a walk leader was ill. Longer or harder walks have been paired with an easier alternative walk.
- We have walked in Greater Manchester, Derbyshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, North Wales, Yorkshire, Cumbria and Staffordshire.
- 22 walk leaders (including 2 guest leaders from other groups) have led 82 weekday and evening walks and walks on our trips to the Lake District and North Wales.
- Three walk leaders, Lesley, Sheila and Kas, have led 26 Saturday Strolls.
- We welcomed two new walk leaders, Janna and Tony.
- The number of walks offered was similar to the previous year, though there was only one walk on a day additional to Thursday and this is a downward trend over the past few years. Attendances on weekday walks is higher than the previous year.
- As agreed at the last year's AGM, Saturday walks have been discontinued and instead more short evening walks were offered between April and September. Numbers were variable, between 5 and 13 but seem to be sufficiently popular that we will run another series of evening walks in 2026.
- A successful four day trip to Keswick was held in May. Numbers attending were similar to numbers in 2024.
- In September we had two days' walking in North Wales with an overnight stay in Llanberis for those who wished. The number of attendances was 22 compared with 30 in the Yorkshire Dales in 2024. We hope to run a similar event in 2026.
- A number of walk leaders attended first aid training offered by Stockport Ramblers
- Our group will be running an incident training session on 12 November, with 11 walk leaders due to attend.

As always, thanks go to all the walk leaders who make our programme of walks possible and continue to come up with new and interesting routes as well as leading old favourites. This year Ramblers introduced new training requirements for walk leaders whereby they must complete two online training modules and read the Walk Leaders Handbook, or have led at least 12 walks in the past three years and have read the Walk Leaders Handbook. Nearly all of our walk leaders have already completed the necessary training, and those that haven't are on course to finish before the end of December deadline, so we should not lose any of our existing walk leaders. Thank you to all of them for taking on board the new requirements.

Rosie Hurley, Walks Coordinator

Saturday Strolls report:

Numbers attending the fortnightly Saturday Strolls have remained high with the group size ranging from 17-34 walkers. Lesley, Sheila and Kas are the regular leaders with Angela stepping in when needed. The strolls are suitable for walkers who are unable to join weekday walks due to work commitments and for those who prefer local, shorter routes. This year there will be a total of 26 strolls starting from 18 local start points. The majority of the walks start/finish from venues where the strollers can have a snack or lunch together after the walk.

During the course of the year we have also arranged 3 special strolls:

- In June we all remembered June Mabon by holding a memorial walk on local paths.
- In July a summer post-stroll lunch was enjoyed at the Snowdrop Cafe in Peover.
- In early December the strollers Xmas lunch has been booked for the Barn Owl near Lymm.

Strollers mainly live in Trafford, though we do have regular walkers who travel from Stockport, North Manchester and Bury to join us.

This year some of the more adventurous strollers joined the Thursday walkers on the group break in Keswick and enjoyed their time there. November 2025 marks the thirteenth anniversary of the first stroll which was a short walk around Dunham Massey. Since then we have built up a useful portfolio of suitable local start points and stroller routes to choose from.

Sheila Kabbani, Strolls Leader