



Bury

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2024-25
Held at Old White Lion Public House, Bury on January 14th 2026

Present: Caroline Knights, Malcolm Chester, Jim Byrom, Ed Husband

Apologies: Edgar Ernstbrunner

1. Minutes of Previous AGM 12th December 2024

Accepted as correct

2. Matters Arising from Previous AGM

None

3. Reports

Reports were delivered from the Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Walk Organiser & Webmaster and Footpath Officer (received via email).

3a) Chairman's Report (Ed Husband)

Bury Ramblers Group has continued to put on a walk in 2025 on most Sundays, but with gaps on some Sundays when no walk could be offered. The programme is therefore possibly less full than in some recent years but is still interesting and varied.

Walks are mainly around South Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire, but with some requiring further travel such as North Lancashire and Yorkshire.

We have found it more difficult this year to recruit and retain volunteers, such as walk leaders, and committee members and to maintain a full programme without blank Sundays. However, many high-quality walks were proposed and then successfully led by our volunteer walk leaders.

It is hoped that the situation will improve in 2026 so that the long-term future of the club is more secure. For this to be effective, more volunteers with a range of skills will be ideal, but I am sure that the existing committee and walk leaders will do an excellent job as always.

Thanks to the committee and members for all your support over the years. Thanks also to Edgar for continuing as our Footpath Officer with some notable success stories. Thanks to all the walk leaders for their valuable efforts to provide great walks for our members.

I intend to step down as Chair of Bury Ramblers at the AGM.

Best wishes to all friends at Bury Ramblers for the future.

I do intend to continue to walk with the group whenever possible. I am unfortunately no longer leading walks for Bury Ramblers so will not be adding to my total of walks led which I think is around 92 plus or minus a few.

3b) Treasurer's Report (Jim Byrom)

Please find the year end accounts for Bury Ramblers below:

General a/c: opening balance 1/10/24 £854.12

closing balance 30/9/25 £659.54 = deficit of £194.71 for the year

Expenditure	recces	£275.65
	stationery	£212.14
	total	£487.79

Receipts	Ramblers Central Office	£68.27x4=	£273.08
	RWH Travel		£ 20.00
	total		£293.08

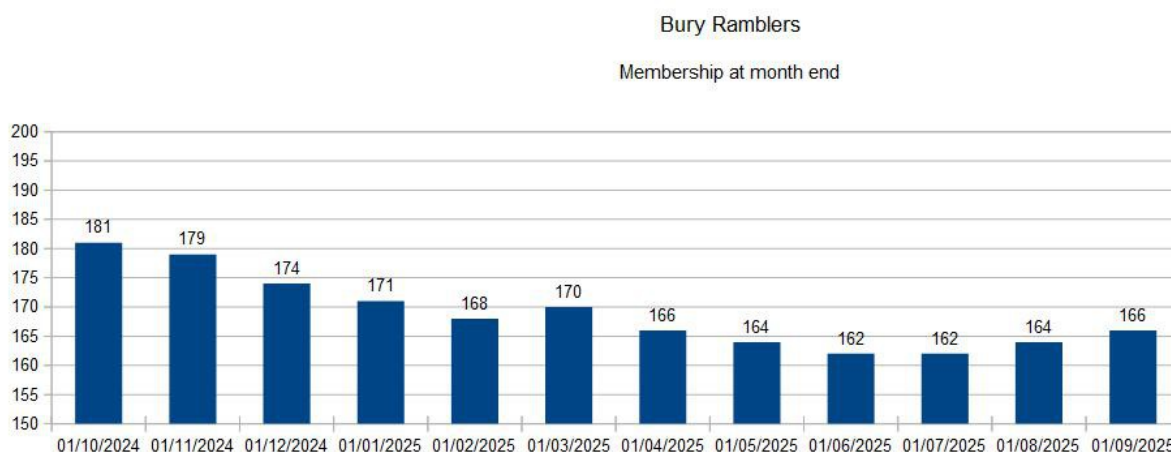
Coach a/c: opening balance £982.10 01/10/24
closing balance £203.10 30/09/25

Expenditure: 50th Anniversary lunch + voucher £779.00

3c) Secretary's Report (Caroline Knights)

Membership Numbers

Bury Ramblers had 180 members at the start of the accounting year, and finished the year with 166 members.



Accident and Incident Report

No accidents or incidents were reported in the year.

Membership fees from 1st October 2025

Individual Membership	£45 annually or £3.75 monthly
Joint Membership	£61 annually or £5.08 monthly
Individual Life Membership	£981
Joint Life Membership	£1,226.50

3d) Walks Organiser's Report (Malcolm Chester)

Bury Ramblers organised 37 Sunday walks in 2025 out of 52 weeks available for walks. Most walks were well attended and regularly attracted participants from neighbouring Ramblers groups.

Walk Statistics:

- 37 Sunday walks were organised and with attendance ranging from 4 to 22 walkers, and an average of 11 per walk.
- Most walks were between 9 and 11 miles in length and graded as Moderate.
- The shortest walk was 7 miles and graded as Leisurely.

- The longest walk was 12 miles and graded as Moderate
- Two walks were graded as Moderate/Strenuous.
- One Sunday Walk was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.
- Nine walk leaders contributed one or more walks to the programme.
- No Wednesday Evening walks were organised.
- No Coach trips were organised due to the absence of a Coach Organiser.

We continued to operate a rolling walks programme, updated regularly on the website.

As the number of submitted walks was insufficient to produce a full printed programme, no paper version was issued this year.

Written risk assessments are no longer required.

New walk leaders must complete the Ramblers online training courses, and existing leaders are encouraged to refresh their knowledge through the same resources.

There was no organised meet-up point for car sharing. Groups meet at the walk start point. Only the walk start-point and start-time were published.

Thanks to all the walk leaders who contributed to the walks programme.

3e) Webmaster's Report (Malcolm Chester)

Bury Ramblers is a Joomla-style website, hosted and supported by Ramblers-Webs, and maintained by a small group of volunteers, with funding provided by Ramblers Central Office. The site remains an essential resource for keeping members informed with current news, group updates, and the future walks programme.

A key part of the website is the growing archive of walk reports and photographs supplied by members for display on the website and in the photo gallery. Our archive now spans 17 years and contains several thousand photographs, providing a rich record of the group's activities and history.

Walk leaders submit their walks via the Google Forms link on our website. This system has proved reliable and convenient, allowing leaders to submit details from a computer, tablet, or mobile phone. Submitted walks are then processed through The Walks Manager and published both on the Ramblers' national website and on our own site.

This year, I also added a dedicated webpage featuring the Greater Manchester and Lancashire area walks programme. With the built-in filter, members can easily find walks across the Northwest on days when no Bury Ramblers walks are scheduled.

In addition to managing our local website, I also serve as the Group Webpage Editor for the Bury Ramblers page on the Ramblers' national website, ensuring our information remains accurate, up to date, and welcoming to prospective members.

3f) Bury FP Report 2025 (Edgar Ernstbrunner)

Not very much to report at this point. Still expecting interesting developments this autumn.

FP Tottington 19: This path remains open and unobstructed

Local Access Forum: There hasn't been a meeting since the previous report. One is scheduled for 1 October, after the deadline for this report. We haven't yet received an update on work carried out since June.

DMMO (S.53 WCA 1981 Claim) Processing:

The claim based on historical evidence reported last time is still pending. PINS has not yet responded to the appeal against the Council's rejection, on spurious grounds, of an upgrade to bridleway

Path Orders: Just two worth mentioning:

- 1) Interestingly, BMBC have now made their first Gating Order / PSPO ever – on an alleyway, after a fatal stabbing. We have no objection to this Order (no PROW or important through-cut involved). But does this mean that BMBC policy of no Gating Orders / PSPOs (the only GM authority to refuse to make them) has now changed, or is it a one-off case? Time will tell.
- 2) We've received a S.247 TCPA Stopping Up Order on a Metrolink underpass near Bury Interchange. In principle, this underpass is an important link to a town centre park; but it has been unusable for some time (flooding). Initially I put in a holding objection before investigation, which then revealed a Planning Application 9no. 71538) proposing a footbridge overpass as an alternative link Having received assurance from TfGM that the underpass would not be closed unless the footbridge (for which funding was available) had been constructed, I was able to withdraw our objection.

4. Election of Officers

Committee roles considered for re-election: Treasurer, Footpath Officer, Walks Organiser, Webmaster:
Existing officers re-elected unopposed

Ed Husband resigned as Chair.

Unfortunately, no-one has come forward to act as Chair, nor for the other vacant roles of Vice-Chair and Publicity Officer.

Malcolm Chester offered to stand in as Acting Chair, and this was welcomed by the remaining members of the committee.

John Clements has agreed to continue in the role of independent examiner.

5. Any Other Business

We are planning to put on some shorter walks in 2026 that will be graded as Easy or Leisurely. Further information will be circulated to all members

AGM Closed 9:15 pm