



Bury

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2022-23

Held at Old White Lion Public House, Bury on 12th December 2023

1. Present

Jim Byrom - Treasurer, Malcolm Chester-Webmaster and Walks Organiser,
Simon Holder- Group and Membership Secretary, Ed Husband- Chairman.

2. Apologies

Edgar Ernstbrunner - Footpath Officer (Report Submitted).
Apologies also from Stewart Brady & Caroline Knights.

3. Minutes of the previous AGM December 2022

No Treasurer's report.

4. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous AGM

None.

5. Reports

The following reports were delivered.

Chairman's Report, Treasurer's Report, Secretary's Report, Walks
Organiser's Report, Webmaster's Report, Footpath Officer's Report (via
email).

Chairman's Report (Ed Husband)

Following Covid19, Bury Ramblers has been able to return to a full programme, with walks on most Sundays. Midsummer Wednesday Evenings Walks have not returned to the level of popularity that they enjoyed before COVID, but we hope this will improve in 2024. There was one serious incident in 2023 of a walker with a broken ankle. This was reported to Ramblers Head Office, who commended the walk leader and group on the actions taken.

Treasurer's Report (Jim Byrom)

Our accounts for 2022/23 are as follows:

General a/c

Opening balance 1/10/22 £1,002.28

Closing balance 30/09/23 £791.16

Reduction £211.12 over the year

Expenditure £579.04 inc recces £211.40; stamps £193.68; toner cartridge £173.96

Receipts £367.92 inc RWH Travel £80; Ramblers Central office £287.92 (£71.98 x 4)

Coach fund £982.10

Secretary's Report (Simon Holder)

Obituary

We have had two members who have passed away this year:

Mr. Thomas Anthony Sudlow and Mr E Cross.

Plus a couple of old friends of the Bury Ramblers: Tom Oldham who was the founder of the Bury Ramblers, and Bob Law who was our treasurer for a few years.

All our sympathies go to their family and friends.

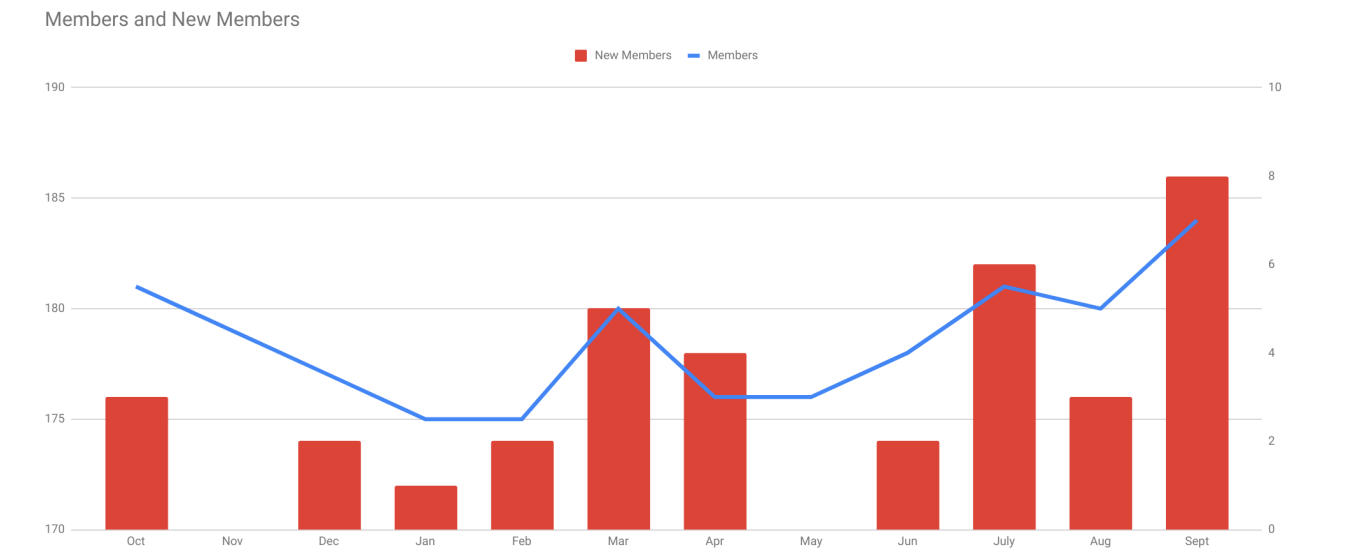
Membership Number

1st October 2022: 176 members, 2 payments pending.

1st October 2023: 184 members, 1 payment pending and 1 affiliate member.

We have had 36 new members, 28 members have either resigned, not renewed their membership or moved away with two members having sadly passed away.

	Membership Figures Report 2022-3											
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept
Members	181	179	177	175	175	180	176	176	178	181	180	184
New Members	3	0	2	1	2	5	4	0	2	6	3	8



Year

FY 2023

Month

September

Nation/Area/Group

Group

MR02 Bury Group

Members/Memberships

Members

Active + PP Members - Start of Month

182

New Members

6

Rejoiners

1

Transfers In

0

Leaver

-2

Transfers Out

-2

Net Growth

3

Active + PP Members - End of Month

185

Member Status

Active

Graphs showing Active members for month end September, FY 2023

184

Member Status

Active (100%)

Gender

Unknown (21%)

F (44%)

M (35%)

Volunteer

Yes (16%)

Email Consent

Opt out (15%)

Not Asked (35%)

Opt in (50%)

Age Group

<20 (0.00%)

20-29 (0.00%)

30-39 (2.17%)

40-49 (5.43%)

50-59 (10.87%)

60-69 (17.93%)

70-79 (21.20%)

80+ (8.15%)

Unknown (34.24%)

Map of the United Kingdom

Membership Fees

From 2nd October the individual membership fees went up from £38.50 to £41.

Accident and Incident Report

We had one accident where a member of West Lancashire Group had slipped and broken her ankle on Mike Lee's first lead walk in Musbury Valley, Rossendale. Incident report was sent to the Ramblers and they have commended the action that Mike for handling this incident as Walk Leader and to all who supported the injured member, including the person who drove her to hospital.

Walks Organiser's Report (Malcolm Chester)

Bury Ramblers organised 37 Sunday walks in 2023 out of 50 weeks available for walks excluding Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve which both fall on Sundays.

Statistics

- 37 Sunday walks were organised and attended by 6 min to 18 max walkers with an average of 12 people per walk.
- 2 Sunday Walks were cancelled and 13 Sundays walks left blank with 2 Sundays falling on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
- A total 11 walk leaders submitted one or more walks.
- No Wednesday Evening walks were organised.
- No Coach trips were organised due a lack of a Coach Organiser.

We continued to use a rolling walks programme, which was displayed on the website. As there were not enough walks to compile a full programme of walks a paper programme was not issued.

Risk assessments are still required to be done while Ramblers decide on how to manage safety on group walks.

Also, there was no advertised meet-up point for car sharing and groups continued to 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 walk programme.

Webmaster's Report (Malcolm Chester)

There have been no problems running the current website and it has continued to be used to display future walks programme.

Walk reports for each walk continue to be submitted together with photographs supplied by members and displayed in the photo gallery. The archives now contain several thousand photographs and reports spanning 15 years.

Walk leaders continue to submit walks using the link to Google Forms on The Bury Ramblers website and it has worked well. Leaders were able to submit walks using a computer, tablet or mobile phone.

Bury FP Report 2023 (Edgar Ernstbrunner)

Local Access Forum. Meetings now take place three times a year. So we've had one in December 2022 and two in April and October 2023, respectively. These were much more effective than the ones reported previously: We receive quite extensive reports on works carried out between meetings (and progress here is quite respectable, given limited resources). Even some long-standing ROW issues have been resolved (see below). One such does remain, yet here too there are signs of progress (again, see below).

Path orders so far this year.

A set of path (mostly bridleways) creations and upgrades, all around Elton Reservoir, has now been confirmed, one stemming from a claim submitted by the British Horse Society a couple of years ago, and others originating from a Council initiative to develop a more efficient sustainable transport network.

Assistance with Rights of Way funding

The Redisher Wood extension of the steps installed last year (part-funded by the Area), proposing to cover an additional section of steep ground, has now also been completed, again with financial assistance from us. A celebratory walk incorporating the whole of the path in question (19 Ramsbottom) took place on 24 September.

Proposed ROW Forum

Sadly, at the latest LAF meeting this was again refused. Therefore, as LAF Chair I have decided to be less reluctant to discuss individual path issues (not normally a matter for the LAF). Indeed, this will be quite a natural consequence of the detailed list of works

presented to the LAF each time (see above), which effectively makes the LAF a hybrid forum.

A tale of two bridges

There have been two important developments here:

1. A bridleway bridge over the River Roch, that had become unsafe after the 2015 Boxing Day floods has been rebuilt at a higher level (to keep it safer from future floods), funded thanks to £1.1m from the GM mayor's Challenge Fund.
2. And funding of more than £2m has been signed off from the GM Bee Network for an even more ambitious bridge replacement (again necessitated by those Boxing Day floods) across the Irwell, this time carrying a footpath (8 St Mary's, Radcliffe). The work is expected to be completed by September 2024.

But some serious problems remain in Bury:

Consolidation of the Definitive Map and Statement

(Repeat from last time:) This is 60 years overdue, and thus quite a massive undertaking that we've endeavoured to assist with our survey. But with existing resources, they say, it is simply not possible. Unfortunately, this is something we have no means to enforce.

Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTROs)

At the July LAF we were promised to be notified of any extensions to these Orders (which normally run for up to 6 months). But this hasn't happened. At the October meeting the Officers duly apologised. We had also raised the question of a TTRO Register (as maintained, for example, by Stockport MBC). Again, we were told this was considered difficult to provide at present (IT resources).

The problem of indefinitely extendable TTROs as such also remains.

The enduring case of FP Tottington 19

It will be recalled that this path, over part of its length, runs on top of a culvert that has partly collapsed, the footpath thus having been technically "out of repair". After lengthy fruitless correspondence the Area agreed to bring a S.56 action against BMBC, with support from RACO. There was further correspondence, since naturally both sides would prefer to avoid going through the Courts. BMBC missed several deadlines, but finally produced an Action Plan based on what I'd proposed as the only feasible way forward – a S.26 Compulsor Creation Order. They have now identified a possible new line for the path, but on a site visit were stymied by vegetation they weren't sure they could cut back without consent from the landowner (who is being unhelpful). So more legal advice was being sought... Thus, ultimately, we still cannot tell whether this will be resolved constructively or antagonistically. And more seriously, RACO are most reluctant to start

actual proceedings (it would be in the Crown Court, thus at significantly higher cost) even though

- a) we'd stand a good chance of having costs awarded
- b) I offered to make a significant personal contribution

Instead, they keep sending letters in the hope that something will turn up. My latest pointed question, what it would take before they accept that they're simply being strung along by the Council, has remained unanswered after almost two weeks.

DMMO Processing:

This remains unacceptably slow – no Orders were made last year. At the latest two LAFs we were told that a more efficient way of handling these had been identified. But we have yet to see any results

“Directed Orders”

There has been no progress on this issue (an authority failing to decide on a path claim even after having been instructed by the SoS to do so – i.e. accept or reject the claim).

After I raised this with Kate Ashbrook last year, she helpfully replied: “... Ramblers is on the case, with OSS and BHS. Do ask Jack Cornish for an update...”

But I have heard nothing since. Of course, this is a nationwide issue, rather than one limited to Bury (as is the TTRO extension problem mentioned above).

Summary

Overall, subject to obvious reservations, we have had a decent working relationship with the Authority (certainly better than last year). But the 19TOT inaction (by both RACO and the Council) is rather pathetic. Better news next year?

6. Election of Officers

Committee roles considered for re-election are:

Chairman, Group Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Footpath Officer, Walks Organiser, Webmaster: Existing officers were re-elected unopposed.

Appointment of an Independent Examiner - John Clements has agreed to carry out this role again next year.

7. Any Other Business

Facebook

Stuart Wild has stepped down as Bury Ramblers' Facebook moderator and the role of Facebook moderator is being taken up by Caroline Knights. We thank Stuart for the sterling work he has undertaken in this role for many years and wish him well in the future.

Publicity

We are in the news. Page 14 in the latest edition of WALK magazine.

VOLUNTEER SUCCESSES



STEP CHANGE

In September, Bury Ramblers organised a walk to celebrate the installation of Redisher Wood steps, funded by Greater Manchester Ramblers, the Long Distance Walkers Association (LDWA) and Bury Council. Members of Bury, Rochdale, Manchester, Salford and Coach Ramblers groups and the LDWA joined the ramble, which also promoted a section of the new GM Ringway trail around Greater Manchester.

The AGM closed at 9:10pm

SH 23/12/23