

Rutland Ramblers

Committee members

Rutland Ramblers held its own AGM on the 9th November 2025. The following people were elected as committee members for the coming year:

John Pitts (Chair)
Michael Gillon (Secretary)
Janice Ferguson (Treasurer)
Richard Siddaway (Membership & Walks Programme)
Margaret Cole (Website)
Jackie Dodsley
Nigel Smart
Andy Fisher

Annual Report:

2025 has been another successful year for our rambling group. In terms of membership, we have just passed the 150 mark, up about a dozen on this time last year. We have also managed to provide a fairly full and varied programme of walks, some 60 in all over the 12 month period. Unfortunately, we were 'stymied' on a handful of occasions this year because of the increasing vagaries of our wonderful weather - including once when it was just too hot!

Like every other group in the country, we have been wrestling with the contentious issue of walk leader training (now a requirement) during the second half of this year. As a committee, we took the view early on that a basic level of training was now a necessary step to help support and protect both the organisation and our individual walk leaders, and we sent out a strong message that we needed our leaders to work with us on this to ensure the long term viability of the group. It is pleasing to see that the vast majority of our 20+ leaders will have completed the training, either on-line or in group sessions (facilitated most ably by Martin James - Area Chairman) by the December deadline.

On the social 'front', our main event earlier this year was a quiz/supper night at Empingham Cricket Club. Over 30 members (and guests) came along to test their knowledge and to enjoy a first rate meal, served up by Neil and Karen of the local Horseshoe Catering Company. The rather inappropriately named 'No Hoppers' stormed to the front on the final round to claim the winning prizes - an 'I Love Rambling' mug for each team member.

Finally, our November AGM at Launde Abbey, following a decent 8-mile ramble, culminated in the usual manner with tea and cakes for all attendees. With 28 folks staying behind to cram into one of the dining rooms, one suspects that the attraction wasn't the normal AGM business!

Michael Gillon (Secretary - Rutland Ramblers)