

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 12th January 2026

The Red Gate Inn, Mansfield

Present:

John Alvey, Julie Bailey, Stephen Bramley, Julie Casey, Pete Dring, Diane Fern, Denise Garley, Martyn Gill, Sharron Hartshorn, Heather Jowett, Julie Lawson, Vanessa McGrath, Stephen Price, Joanna Scanlon Brian Tuffnell, Mary Whetstone.

Apologies:

Richard Coupe, Hazel Dickinson, Alex Ellis, Jackie Evans, Steve Evans, Eileen Matthews, Robert Matthews, Maureen McEvoy, Yvonne Rek, Merv Thomas, Viv Withers.

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting on 6th October 2025 we approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Vanessa McGrath, seconded by Stephen Bramley.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

Officer Reports

Chair

Welcome and thank you so much for attending.

A summary of:

1. Highlights by each officer.
2. AGM and Board composition
3. Challenges and Opportunities
4. Health and Safety Issues
5. Links to Area Ramblers
6. Links to National Ramblers
7. Thankyous

Finance

UNITY TRUST

Account has a balance of £823.93 as at 09/01/2026. Since the last meeting we have paid £100 for the Walk Leader Courses room hire. We have received £30 commission from Ramblers Worldwide Travel There is still funding in this account to pay for First Aid Training. We currently receive £168.75 per quarter funding from the Ramblers Association.

NATWEST SOCIAL ACCOUNT

The balance on this Account as at 09/01/2026 was £4,811.97. Please refer to the attached Summary of Activities. We still have a balance of £82.02 on the anonymous donation from December 2023. The 2024 Christmas Party did have a surplus of £535 due to the party being very kindly funded by an anonymous donation. However, the 2025 Christmas Party made a loss of £195.50, equivalent to the cost of the room hire. This loss has been funded by moving across some of the surplus from the 2024 party. This means that the surplus on the 2024 party is now only £339.50, which when added to the money left from the 2023 donation means we only have £421.52 to fund a Coach Trip. This will impact on the charge per head on that trip. Other recent social activities have generally broken even. The Murder Mystery evening had a surplus of £24, or £1 per ticket, due to the venue changing the

price. This surplus has been transferred to the Anniversary Party. There is one ticket left to sell for the Panto. There has been a further anonymous donation in December of £175. I have put this against the Room Hire for the Anniversary Party. We have already paid for the Room Hire for the 2026 Christmas Party as well.

2024/2025 GROUP RETURN

Hazel Dickinson very kindly agreed to act as Independent Examiner this year. I attach a copy of her report. Please note that she has made two important recommendations, which I fully support.

Martyn Gill (Treasurer)

Litter Pickers

No report received.

Membership

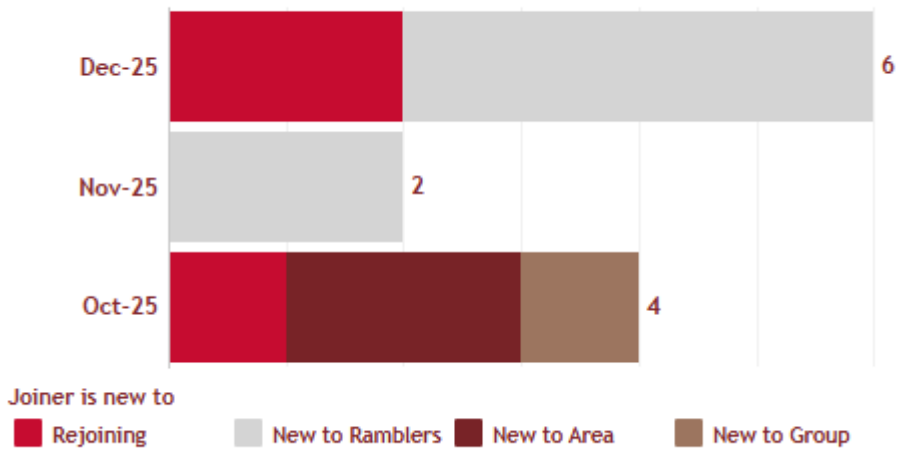
13 new members

17 leavers – 6 lapsed and 11 resigned

1 affiliated member.

159 members in total.

Secretary List Summary Counts



Publicity

Annual Programme 2026

Facebook page - Brian weekly posts.

Action - from members officer Stats for how many new members from Facebook.

Local media - Sharron- Quarterly

Litter picking successes

Walks programme

News article for local and national Ramblers

Action- Plan a date for an interview

New leaflets needed for venues:

Mansfield library

Mansfield Museum

Pleasley Pit

Etc.

Action

Agreement after discussion with cm.

Delivery Sharron

Radio publicity

Action

Arrange a 25th celebration slot with

BBC Notts

Radio Mansfield

Webpage

Action

Group discussion

Awards 2025 Green Awards nominated by Sharron successful.

Action Alex to feed back.

2026 Nomination by Sharron Volunteer of the Year Awards January 30th Landmark Centre Pleasley.

Action Sharron. Arrange a group to attend the event.

Social Events

Events since last committee meeting

Criccieth 22th – 26th October 2025. Great holiday, hotel and staff good, couldn't do enough for us, celebrated Martyn's birthday, great time had by all.

Murder Mystery Dinner Hostess 1st November 2025 24 people £39 – great evening, enjoyed by all, booked another event there in Feb 2026.

Shrek – Palace Theatre, meal Andwhynot – 6th November 2025 17 people – good evening, everyone enjoyed.

November 8th Walk 2025 Leader Training Pleasley – out of 33 walk leaders – only 3 needs updating.

Bolsover Lantern – 29th November 2025

Christmas Party Friday 19th December 2025 Triple S /feed / Last Stand, Lance Gold. 113 tickets sold for £15 each, everyone had a great night, had good feedback, just one negative.

Nutcracker Royal Albert Hall 29th December 2025 Blue Pigeon travel £129.00 15. Amazing trip to the Royal Albert Hall, everyone enjoyed it.

Events in the Calendar

Panto Rapunzel 5th February 2026 35 £12 each 26 for meal – Andwhynot

Charlie & the Chocolate Factory 10 £20 each meal at Andwhynot 5th March 2026

Melrose – Scotland Holiday 22nd March to 28th March 2026. One double and 4 twin available – opened to friends and family, will bring cost down if we can fill additional places.

Sparkle Walk – 27th June 2026 – please confirm if this is to be sent out as M&S Ramblers support/event, and if we will dedicate this to Sue again re just giving page?

25th Anniversary – Was my understanding from the last committee meeting that we would have a few events throughout the year. If this is no longer the case, I will ask Triple S if we can have a refund.

8th May 2026 – booked Triple SS paid £195 room fee, Tanya has suggested entertainment, solo female singer and Last Stand (I asked for their availability on the night of the Christmas party) nothing has been confirm re entertainment yet.

Other dates – events/ideas to be confirmed see below on text suggestions.

Jackie Evans - Can anyone remember the first walk and today's walkers to do the walk again, have a coffee morning and invite retired to attend if possible

Julie Bailey - Walk a bit of the pilgrims way in Portugal or Spain meant to be cathartic for people and the ramblers have enriched and saved many a lonely life

Sharron Hartshorn - Day out/ maybe favourite place of Sue's.

Jill Quibell - 25 mile walk/ shorter walk/ coach trip to seaside with walk meal after/ walk and afternoon tea.

Diane Fern - plant 25 trees.

Jackie Evans - Silver Party/ Silly Silver Day/ 25 mile walk would be too much.

Steve Bramley - BBQ or Meal

group discussion - 25 mile walk over 2/3 days stopping over

8th May- Triple S room booked £195 - Tanya suggested female singer/ Last Stand

4th December 2026 – Christmas Party - Triple s room booked paid £195 Tanya has suggested two artist, solo female Miss Motown female soul and Motown – Electric Blue instrumental duo female/male pop/disco/ multi music. If the above is not ok, then I will speak to Triple S to see if it's ok to get a refund on the room. Nothing confirmed back to Tanya on the artist bookings.

28th January 2027 – Paddington Musical London- Blue Pigeon 8 on the list – 4 paid deposit – 4 to pay/confirm.

Possible events to arrange

Castleton Christmas

Escape Rooms Nottingham

Southwell Minster

Theatre Royal – Priscilla Queen of the Desert Musical 28th April – 2nd May £22.50 to £57.00

Dogs Nottingham

Stags – events

Cresswell Craggs

Dropworks Rum Tour

Capo Bingo

Oxton Hall Tour

Renishaw Hall bluebells April/ June Roses

Thornbridge Hall Ashford on the water

Belton House Grantham

Vanessa McGrath

Events discussion.

Going forward, check with the committee before booking 'Group' events such as Christmas Party.

The first walk by the group is not known.

Agreed to have a tree at Cuckney Christmas Tree Festival and possibly in Pleasley.

Agreed to planting 25 trees.

Create a 25 walks booklet.

Coach trip to Saltburn on 9th August at cost of £10 for members. Balance of cost to be funded by the donation balance.

Walks Report

Although attendance at our last walks meeting was low, we now have walks scheduled right through to the end of March, with a few planned later in the year as well. For those who have kindly offered to lead a walk, please could you send me some basic details - such as the walk length and starting point - so I can get the listings onto the website. The finer details can always be added afterwards.

If anyone has a favourite route or a place they'd love to explore, please let me know and I'll do my best to include it in the programme.

Following our recent training sessions, we now have 30 fully trained walk leaders. A small number still need to complete their training before the end of the month. From February, any leaders who remain untrained should not be leading walks, and from March, if training is still incomplete, the walk leader role will unfortunately be withdrawn (by head office, not me).

We continue to welcome new faces on our walks, and the feedback from them has been extremely positive. Thank you to everyone for helping make newcomers feel so welcome.

Our Facebook page is attracting a great deal of interest, and the comments about our walk leaders are consistently encouraging. Photos from our walks and holidays remain very popular on both the website and Facebook. If you have ideas or suggestions for articles or features, you'd like to see on the website, I'd love to hear them - your contributions help keep our online presence fresh, lively, and engaging.

Brian Tuffnell

A.O.B

Alex sent a message that more of our members attending for better publicity. Alex wasn't at the meeting so this could not be explained further. Carried forward to next meeting.

It was agreed that this year we should not support the Area with a stand at the Nottinghamshire Show.

Next Meeting date

Date not arranged.

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Brian Tuffnell  
Group Secretary, Mansfield & Sherwood Group

E&OE

# Appendix 1 – NatWest Social Account Summary.

## Mansfield & Sherwood Ramblers SOCIAL ACCOUNT

Statement Date:

09/01/2026

[Bankline - Login \(natwest.com\)](#)

Martyn Gill, Treasurer

| DATE             | Cheque No. | PAYEE | ACTIVITY                  | CREDITS    | DEBITS     | BALANCE   | Receipt | NOTES              |
|------------------|------------|-------|---------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|---------|--------------------|
| 01/10/2025       |            |       | Activity Credit 2024-2025 |            |            | £735.21   |         | b/f from 2024-2025 |
|                  |            |       | Donation Dec 23           | £1,050.00  | £967.98    | £82.02    |         |                    |
| 20/12/2024       |            |       | XMAS24 Party              | £535.00    | £195.50    | £339.50   |         |                    |
| 26/09/2025       |            |       | Headstocks                | £104.00    | £104.00    | £0.00     |         | Completed          |
| 22/10/2025       |            |       | Wales                     | £14,068.00 | £14,068.06 | -£0.06    |         | Completed          |
| 01/11/2025       |            |       | Murder mystery            | £1,005.00  | £1,005.00  | £0.00     |         | Completed          |
| 08/11/2025       |            |       | Shrek                     | £425.00    | £430.00    | -£5.00    |         | Completed          |
| 19/12/2025       |            |       | Xmas 25                   | £2,115.50  | £2,115.50  | £0.00     |         | Completed          |
| 29/12/2025       |            |       | Nutcracker                | £2,075.00  | £2,075.00  | £0.00     |         | Completed          |
| 05/02/2026       |            |       | Panto 26                  | £533.00    | £550.00    | -£17.00   |         |                    |
| 07/02/2026       |            |       | Motown                    | £270.00    | £240.00    | £30.00    |         |                    |
| 05/03/2026       |            |       | Charlie                   | £215.00    | £235.00    | -£20.00   |         |                    |
| 22/03/2026       |            |       | Melrose                   | £3,898.00  | £300.00    | £3,598.00 |         |                    |
| 08/05/2026       |            |       | Anniversary Party         | £199.00    | £195.00    | £4.00     |         |                    |
| 04/12/2026       |            |       | Xmas 26                   | £0.00      | £195.00    | -£195.00  |         |                    |
| 28/01/2027       |            |       | Paddington                | £300.00    | £0.00      | £300.00   |         |                    |
|                  |            |       | Member Support            | £0.00      | £39.70     | -£39.70   |         |                    |
| BALANCE          |            |       |                           | £26,792.50 | £22,715.74 | £4,811.97 |         |                    |
| NAT WEST BALANCE |            |       |                           |            |            | £4,811.97 |         |                    |
| DISCREPANCY      |            |       |                           |            |            | £0.00     |         |                    |

## Appendix 2 – Finance Audit Report.

### Mansfield and Sherwood Ramblers

Report from Independent Examiner on year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025

#### 1. FINDINGS

- Having carried out an independent examination of the accounts of the Mansfield & Sherwood Ramblers I consider the accounts to give a fair representation of the group's financial activities for the year to 30 September 2025. My thanks go to the Treasurer, Martyn Gill, for keeping such accurate and clear records which enabled a straightforward review.
- However, I did identify one issue with the balances brought forward which has already been highlighted with the Area Office and been agreed by the Area Treasurer.
- Whilst the total balance of £6884.71 is agreed there is a difference between the two bank accounts of £271.06.
- The main bank account (Unity) shows a cash book figure of £384.12 but the Bank Statement shows £655.18, difference of plus £271.06.
- The Self-funded (Natwest) shows a cash book figure of £6500.59 but the Bank Statement shows £6229.53, difference of minus £271.06.

The above could be rectified by a transfer of funds of £271.06 from the Unity bank account to the Self-funded Natwest bank account in 2026 and should be shown as a reconciling item on the Cash and Bank tab of the 2024/25 return.

I believe it has been agreed that the funds remain as current without the movement of funds. If this is the case, then a nominal adjustment of £271.06 needs to be made in the cash books or this difference will exist at the next year end too.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

##### **Approval of Expense Claims**

- Claim forms are completed for minor personal expenses paid from the Unity account, for example, mileage costs to recce walks for the group, AGM expenses, stationery, etc. These should be approved and signed off, prior to payment, by the relevant member of the Committee. For example, expenses to recce walks should be approved by the Walks Coordinator and expenses for the AGM by the Chair.

##### **Approval of Expenditure from the Self-funded NatWest Account.**

- For every payment from the Self-funded bank account there should be an invoice or receipt provided to the treasurer within one week of the payment which enables accurate recording of the expenditure, keeps funds secure and enables accurate posting of the expenditure by the Treasurer. This may be a confirmation email from the supplier. In 2024/25 many such invoices/receipts/confirmation emails have not been provided. For those who hold the debit cards, and hence have authority to make payments, this should be a non-negotiable requirement of holding a debit cards.

**Signature:** Hazel Dickinson

**Date:** 2/01/26

**Hazel Dickinson, Independent Examiner**

