

Mansfield & Sherwood Ramblers



Minutes of Committee Meeting, 26th March 2026

The Waverley Castle Hotel, Melrose

Present:

Dave Atwood, Val Bacon, Ann Ballinger, Steve Bramley, Diane Brandreth, Julie Casey, Hazel Dickinson, Pete Dring, Diane Fern, Mags Foster, Jane Freezer, Martyn Gill, Jo Goodwin, Carol Green (guest), Sharron Hartshorn, Heather Jowett, Julie Marasco, Bob Matthews, Eileen Matthews, Maureen McEvoy, Vanessa McGrath, Arthur Mee, Janet Mee, Steve Price, Jan Rek, Yvonne Rek, David Revuelta, Merv Thomas, Brian Tuffnell, Sonja Vlaming, Jen Walker, Helen Ward, Mary Whetstone, Linda Wilcock, Pat Wilcock, Vivienne Withers, Val Wooley.

Apologies:

None received.

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting on 26th January were distributed for reading on the coach whilst travelling to Melrose.

At the Committee only meeting, Vanessa McGrath highlighted that some of the votes that were taken were missing.

Recommendation: Allow more time to record votes/decisions at future meetings.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

Officer Reports

Chair

Welcome and thank you so much for attending. During the meeting as is our regular format each officer will share their reports with you and comments and questions are welcome from members. Thank you to the committee once again for their precious time and commitment it was a pleasure earlier this month to continue planning our walking and social programme with them. There are some wonderful events planned for everyone to enjoy.

Sharron Hartshorn.

Finance

UNITY TRUST

Account has a balance of £928.78 as at 16/03/2026.

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 16/03/2026 was £3,642.97.

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 has a surplus of £339.50 due to the party being very kindly funded by an anonymous donation. £105 of this will be used to subsidise the Saltburn Coach Trip. It was previously agreed that a further Coach Trip will be part-financed in a similar way in the near future.

Other recent social activities have generally broken even.

Martyn Gill (Treasurer)

Action – *Look at options for another coach trip.*

Litter Pickers.

No report received.

Footpaths.

I have attended ROW training and meetings throughout the year, and continue to slowly get to grips with the role.

The weekly Planning Applications to Mansfield and Ashfield District Councils are sent to the Footpath Secretary inbox. I scrutinise these for any Applications that might impact on RoW in the Mansfield and Ashfield areas. There are many ROW issues raised across Nottinghamshire being investigated by other ROW Secretaries across the County.

There are 2 local developments; DMMO 1329 for the creation of a footpath from New Mill Lane (Mansfield Woodhouse BW39) to the track to Warren Farm (Mansfield Woodhouse FP32) and Land West of Brick Kiln Lane and South of Abbott Road Mansfield Nottinghamshire. Which I would appreciate Mansfield and Sherwood Ramblers, who know these areas, commenting on, so that I can feedback to Notts County Council. The feedback for Brick Kiln Lane needs to occur before 3rd April. I continue to be supported by Judith Anson to review issues, and liaise with Notts County Council.

Nottinghamshire Area Ramblers objected to the closure of the footpath between Crown Farm Way and Newlands Road Forest Town, the application was opposed on the grounds of the vastly increased distance of the proposed diversionary route, which is SIX times the distance when alternatives within the site boundary exist. A response is awaited.

Action: Follow up at the next meeting.

There have been no ROW issues raised to me by Ramblers or members of the public.

Mary Whetstone

Membership.

Since the last meeting these are the statistics for Mansfield & Sherwood Ramblers.

18 New members.

6 have left the group and 3 have resigned.

3 memberships have lapsed.

Total number of members is 167.

Thank you to all members for regularly walking and supporting the group. Thank you to and welcome to all the new members for joining and being so enthusiastic on the walks. Thanks to all who have made our new members feel welcome.

In this, our 25th year, we go from strength to strength.

Julie Casey

Publicity.

Publicity during the previous month was:

- Radio Mansfield announcing each walk

- News Journal walks programme
- New Leaflets on display at Pleasley Pit
- Facebook sharing

Future planned promotions include 25th Anniversary interviews with Radio Mansfield, local press, BBC East Midlands and BBC Radio Nottingham.

Action: Update at future meetings.

Social Events

Events since last committee meeting:

- 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
- Behold Ye Ramblers – 13th March 2026 – 16 @ £15.00 each

Events in the Calendar:

- Melrose – Scotland Holiday 22nd March to 28th March 2026
- Sparkle Walk – 27th June 2026 – Ramblers support/event, we will dedicate this to Sue Rick I need to set up the Just giving page target £2,000 as before.
- Renishaw Hall – Bluebell Visit – Wednesday 22nd April 2026, Organised by Denise Garley
- 25th Anniversary – BBQ/Sports Day and further details. Alex & Jim organizing, awaiting date.
- Saltburn Day trip – Sunday 9th August 2026, 57-seater coach trip two spaces left
- Torquay - 14th-18th October 2026 Holiday – one single room & 5 doubles available
- Priscilla Queen of the Desert Wednesday 4th November 2026
- Friday 4th December 2026 – Christmas Party. Triple S room booked paid £195 two artist booked, solo female Miss Motown female soul and Motown – Electric Blue instrumental duo female/male pop/disco/ multi music. Cost £15.00 each
- Saturday 5th December 2026 Cuckney Christmas Tree Festival
- Group participation for our 25th Anniversary
- 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
- Dogs Nottingham
- Stags – events
- Cresswell Craggs
- Dropworks Rum Tour
- Capo Bingo
- Oxton Hall Tour
- Belton House Grantham

Vanessa McGrath

Walks Report

Despite the weather and the mud over the past few months our walks have been well attended. Thanks to the leaders that have put on the walks and to those persevering through some challenging conditions at times, and on one occasion losing their boots. We have a varied walks programme lined up, although not all are on the website as I still need details of the walk route, or the starting point at least.

Brian Tuffnell

Website.

Brian explained the new look to the website with a new information area for our constitution and committee member names, meeting minutes will be added shortly. There are also some 'How To' guides.

Some said that the new look was good.

Sheriff of Nottingham.

The meeting was told of the meeting with the Sheriff and his plans to promote Sherwood Forest. The plans included restoring the three remaining information plaques around the forest – Friar Tuck in Fountaindale, one behind St Mary's Church in Edwinstowe and the one in Kings Clipstone. The restoration is being undertaken by Blidworth Men in Sheds. To promote these, he is looking for our help to devise and lead some short walks. These walks need to be suitable for the public to follow from a printed guide.

AGM

Our next meeting will be on the 1st November and it had been agreed to use Annesley and Felley Parish Hall. It has good facilities and access to areas for walks before the meeting. Leaders are needed for the walks.

Action: *update at next meeting.*

A.O.B

Heather Jowett raised the Christmas Tree preparations. Julie Casey confirmed that we will be having a tree in the Cuckney Christmas Tree Festival and also the tree festival in Pleasley. A meeting had already taken place to look into ideas for the decorations to be used. The next meeting will be on 31st March at Stacey Road Community Centre. Heather asked if we could arrange meetings to include those still working.

Action: *Julie Casey will add Heather to the WhatsApp group.*

For the 25th Celebration BBQ and sports day more information is needed from Alex.

Action: *The committee will peruse this.*

The plan to plant 25 trees is progressing and we have spoken to the Sheriff of Nottingham regarding this.

It was suggested that we should plant a silver birch in Sue's Garden in Pleasley.

Action: *Investigate getting a silver birch tree.*

Next Meeting date

18th May 2026, location to be confirmed.

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Brian Tuffnell

Group Secretary, Mansfield & Sherwood Group

E&O