Godalming & Haslemere Ramblers

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 21 November 2026, 7pm

Godalming United Church
Bridge Road, Godalming GU7 3DT

Agenda

1 Welcome
2 Apologies for absence
3 Minutes of AGM held on 15 November 2025
4 Matters arising
5 Items for discussion under Any Other Business
6 Chairman's Report – Heather Dillon
7 Reports

- 7.1 Membership – Claire Guest
- 7.2 Social Events – Sheila Myers
- 7.3 Holidays and Coach Walks – Beila Best
- 7.4 Walks Programme Coordinator – Jenny Caddy
- 7.5 Publicity – Heather Dillon
- 7.6 Footpath Working Party – John France
- 7.7 Footpath Secretaries – Margaret France & Ian Wilks

8 Treasurer's Report and Election of Examiner of Accounts for 2027 – Simon Youl
9 Election of Officers and Committee Members
10 Any Other Business

Carol Bateman, Secretary
The meeting will be followed by a buffet supper

Godalming & Haslemere Ramblers

Reports for AGM 21 November 2026

Chairman's Report – Item 6 – Heather Dillon

To be given at the meeting

Godalming & Haslemere Ramblers AGM 21 November 2026

Membership Report – Item 7.1 – Claire Guest

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1 Key Findings for the Year

- **Active Membership:** We started the year with **435 active members** in October, reached a high point of **440 members** in February and March, and concluded the walking year at **419 members** in September.
- **Welcomes:** Over the course of the year, we welcomed **48 members** into our group:
  - **33 brand new members** joining the Ramblers for the very first time.
  - **11 members transferring in** from other Ramblers Groups.
  - **4 former members returning** back to the group.
- **Farewells:** Across the same 12 months, **65 people** stepped down or moved on:
  - **56 members** chose not to renew or left the Ramblers.
  - **9 members** moved away or transferred to other local groups.
- **Overall Picture:** We experienced a net reduction of **16 active members** across the year (a 3.7% overall change).

2 How Our Membership Changed Across the Seasons:

Season / Period	What We Saw	Highlights & Trends
Autumn (Oct – Nov)	*High activity & renewal period*	A strong influx of new joiners in October (**7 new members**), followed by our biggest annual

		renewal window in November, where 10 members stepped down.
Winter (Dec – Feb)	*Growth & peak attendance*	Recruitment surged in December (**8 joined**), lifting our total group size to a year-high of **440 walkers** in February.
Spring (Mar – May)	*Gradual settling*	A steady season with few joiners and leavers in March, followed by spring departures in April (**8 leavers**) and May, bringing the group to 421 members.
Summer (Jun – Sept)	*Steady & balanced*	Very stable mid-summer numbers (holding at around 420 members) with quiet recruitment, wrapping up the year at 419 members in September.

3 At a Glance: Where Our Members Came From - How Many Joined and Left

- **New Walkers - 69%:** The vast majority, **33,** were people taking up walking with Ramblers for the first time.
- **Transfers In - 23%:** Another **11** walkers joined us after relocating or transferring from other groups.
- **Welcome Back - 8%: 4** members rejoined our community during the autumn and winter.

3.1 Why People Left

- **Lapsed or Left - 86%: 56** members decided to hang up their boots or not renew their subscriptions. Most non-renewals clustered around typical membership renewal points (November, January, and April).
- **Transfers Out - 14%: 9** members moved on to walk with other groups within the Ramblers

3.2 Surrey Area

Over the past year, **Surrey Area membership grew overall by 2.5%**, outpacing the national average for England of **1.3%**.

- While the wider Surrey area grew, boosted by the growth of four groups such as Mole Valley which grew **8%,** Godalming & Haslemere joined the 12 local groups that saw a net decline.
- **Comparison to Declining Groups:** With a decline in members **-3.7%** Godalming and Haslemere were in the middle of the pack. We experienced a slightly larger drop than nearby East Surrey **-2.8%** and Farnham **-0.2%**, but held up better than groups with sharper drops, such as Kingston **-4.7%,** Croydon **-5.3%,** and SABRE **-7.2%.**

3.3 Deaths

We are sad to report the deaths of members or ex-members over the past year:

John Casey - Richard Evans - Jack Lewis - Kate Colley

4 Looking Ahead: What This Means for Our Group

- **A Resilient, Strong Community:** Even with a small net dip, our community remains over **400 members strong**, with healthy turnout and active leaders guiding our regular programme of walks.
- **Reaching New Walkers:** Direct recruitment of new walkers is our greatest strength. Offering accessible taster walks, newcomer days, and local publicity will keep our walking programme vibrant.
- **Staying Connected with Existing Members:** Because most departures happen during seasonal renewal milestones (autumn and early spring), small check-ins and welcoming reminder notes can encourage members to stay part of the community.

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Social Events Report – Item 7.2 – Sheila Myers

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1 Events Hosted by the Social Committee

1.1 The New Year Lunch was held at Bramley Golf course on 11th January. We had positive feedback from many of the 68 members who enjoyed either a 2 or 3 course meal for this popular social occasion. Our Chairwoman led the traditional walk before the lunch.

1.2 The annual Travel Show was held as usual at the Wilfrid Noyce Centre in Godalming on March 14th. Jim Robertson liaised with members and presided over the presentation of their fascinating photographs. The social committee organised the provision of finger food contributions kindly provided by members, and tea, coffee and soft drinks were readily available. Damian once again organised the Raffle.

1.3 Our Anniversary Tea party took place on a very hot day at Godalming United Church hall on June 27th. Due to the excessive heat, we had some last-minute cancellations but 83 members had paid to enjoy a range of food provided by Waitrose, with the popular inclusion of fresh strawberries. A special hand-made Anniversary cake was unavailable at almost the last minute, but we made the best of a rather small cake that could be cut by our valued long serving members.

1.4 My special thanks go to our dedicated team of Judith Brignell, Judith Davis, Maureen Holland and Janet Cole for their invaluable support with organising, setting up and clearing away at our social functions. And not forgetting the other members who volunteered to step in to help on the day.

1.5 New Year Lunch 2027 - Following our very successful last visit to this venue, we are again offering a wonderful New Year Lunch on 10th January 2027 at Bramley Golf Club. All members can expect a most warm welcome on this very special social occasion.

2 Other Social Events

2.1 Quiz Evening – 51 people attended the fun quiz evening on 24 February. Thanks go to Damian Wheeler who organised the event and to Jenny Caddy who was the Quiz Master.

2.2 Bowls Evening – On 25 May 27 people took up the challenge of rolling a bowl which does not travel in a straight line! Many of the Godalming & Farncombe Bowls Club members were on hand to assist at this fun evening. We then sat down to a very enjoyable supper in the club house prepared by Carol Bateman, Judith Davis and Linda Rixon. The delicious cakes and tarts were all made by Jenny Caddy.

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Holidays and Coach Walks Report – Item 7.3 – Beila Best

I am pleased to be able to report another successful year with three Coach Walks and a 4-day Spring Break taking place and enjoyed by all those who attended.

Attendances were good and thankfully there was no one who was prevented from going because of demand exceeding supply.

The cost of both the Coach Walks and the Spring Break were once again reasonably priced, the Coach Walks just breaking even, and the Spring Break having a surplus, which can be used to offset costs for 2027. This is good news as the current economic climate will certainly increase fuel prices which in turn will affect our costs.

1 Spring Break to Kent

This year's break in late May was to Kent. A first-class team led by Jackie Ring, assisted by Alison Briscoe, Sue and Pete Kelsey, Toni Martin and Dot Crocombe planned four very interesting days for us, the first of which had Philip Watson returning to his old school roots, Rochester, where he showed us the sights of this very interesting city with its beautiful cathedral, and Dickens and Hugenot Museums. The summer heatwave was not yet upon us, but we were lucky with nice spring weather over all four days.

Whilst we have in the past visited the Kentish Weald, the area around Chatham and Rochester was quite new to many of us, and so all the more interesting. We had the benefit of a fairly short coach journey and arrived at Upnor, a strategic and historic location at the estuary of the River Medway. Walking down the lovely old cobbled street, full of interest, was a delight and surprise to us all. Walks were then on the Saxon Shore Way – which is now part of King Charles III England Coast Path, and on the following days on the Darent Valley Path, past a Roman villa and through pretty villages. There was a chance to visit the quaint town of Whitstable, famous for its oysters. The final day gave an opportunity for some to see Chatham Dockyard with its historic ships, whilst the Medway River valley provided pleasant riverside views on our walks. Ightham Mote was visited by non-walkers.

Thank you, Jackie and your team, for giving us such an excellent few days exploring an historic area.

I would like to record our thanks to Alex More-Molyneux of Loseley Park who generously allowed us to park safely in their Forge Meadow for the four days of our trip. It is hoped this will be available to us for future Spring breaks.

Those on the break heard that in 2027 we would be going to Exmoor, with our Chairwoman, Heather Dillon and Jenny Winter planning another exciting spring holiday for us.

2 Coach Walks

The three Coach Walks took place as usual in June, July and August, all three in heatwave conditions.

2.1 Sissinghurst – June 2026

Firstly, John and Margaret France, ably supported by Jim and Jane Robertson, planned a delightful day, particularly for avid gardeners, at Sissinghurst Castle Gardens. Starting at Goudhurst we joined the High Weald Landscape Trail and long walkers stopped in pretty Cranbrook for lunch, where the short walkers started their walk, both groups ending up at historic Sissinghurst Castle Gardens. These had evolved from a Saxon pig farm and Tudor manor into a world-famous romantic garden created by writer Vita Sackville-West and diplomat Harold Nicolson.

2.2 Avebury – July 2026

Sissinghurst had been hot, but Avebury, our next location, was broiling! Judith Davis and her team of Sheila Myers, Janet Cole and Phil Gaillard having planned a most interesting day, could not provide us with shade! The temperatures were in the mid 30's but the team

brilliantly saw a way of shortening both walks to the gratitude of those brave enough to attend. Some 15 walkers who felt the heat would be overpowering, decided not to come. However, the magnificent wide-open views, the amazing stone circles, particularly The Avenue of Stones and the beautiful Manor House and Gardens, together with the museum, made for a lovely day enjoyed in spite of the weather. Ice creams and cold drinks were the order of the day in the attractive village.

2.3 St Albans – August 2026

August saw our last coach walk and for this we went north, not normally an area that our coach walks take us to, but Adrian Deuling and Carol Bateman, helped by Andy Piercey and Jean Harker, headed up this visit to the historic city of St Albans. The M25 treated us kindly, but at the last moment lorries blocked a narrow road, so long walkers were decanted half a mile before the drop off point. The 1000 year old city, an unheralded jewel of Hertfordshire, is at the heart of English history with its magnificent cathedral. The weather was still exceptionally hot, and before walking, some of us enjoyed a relaxed and interesting tour of the city. Ramblers then either set off on their walk, or enjoyed a pavement lunch in one of the delightfully shaded side streets, or walked exploring Verulamium Park with its Roman wall remains and Hypocaust as well as ancient Fishpool Street.

Our very grateful thanks go to both those who have organised and those who have supported them, this year. The Coach Walk Away Days are much enjoyed by all who participate, but they can only continue if there are volunteers coming forward to lead them.

Looking at 2027 Mike Richardson and Nick Baxter have offered to lead two Coach Walks. We are short of a third, and it would be excellent if one of our members offered to undertake this.

3 Autumn European Holiday

Early September saw 25 of us off to Southern Ireland for our annual European holiday. We were based in Kenmare in the area of the Ring of Kerry. Kenmare is a pretty town with many streets of individual shops, including outside coffee shops and restaurants. Nearby Killarney was a good town for our day off.

Typical weather greeted our first day's walk. We were left in no doubt why it is called The Emerald Isle. It rained all day long. There were murmurs of "why have we spent all this money to walk in rain". The sun gods obviously were listening, because the next six days were, in the main, gloriously sunny and comfortably warm, with the odd heavy shower coming over night or when we were travelling.

The countryside was beautiful, with waterfalls galore, and spectacular scenery. Picnic lunches beside rushing streams and many ladder type stiles to climb, we knew we were "abroad" so very different from our nearby home territory.

And so, the season ended successfully. Breaks, Coach Walks and Holidays are such an important and enjoyable social outlet for us, alongside our main activity, rambling, and give such pleasure to so many. It is sincerely hoped that some new members will be happy to

step forward, and with support from those who have been involved in the past, take up the very pleasurable challenge of organising.

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Walks Programme Coordinator Report – Item 7.4 – Jenny Caddy

The programme of walks was produced, as usual, every four months. Seventeen walks were cancelled; four owing to rain and snow, the rest owing to unusually hot weather. The Festival of Winter Walks ran from 25/12/2025 to 02/01/2026 (the same period as last year).

There were three walks with a special feature: a Christmas lunch after a walk organised by Damian Wheeler in December, an Asian lunch walk organised by Heather Dillon and Sheila Myers in August and a walk in London led by Beila Best and Julia Evans in September. In June there were two walks in the morning before the 50th anniversary tea party in the afternoon.

1 October 2025 – 30 September 2026				
	Type of walk	Number of walks	Attendance total	Attendance average
Wednesday	Moderate, long	46 (63)	434 (647)	9 (10)
Wednesday	Moderate, medium	44 (32)	396 (363)	9 (11)
Wednesday	Morning, leisurely	49 (46)	587 (650)	12 (14)
Wednesday	Morning, easy	21 (7)	176 (55)	8 (8)
Thursday	Morning	49 (52)	880 (1038)	18 (20)
Friday	Evening	15 (18)	135 (215)	9 (12)
Saturday	Half day	3 (3)	40 (29)	13 (10)
Sunday	Over 8 miles	17 (21)	122 (138)	7 (6)
Sunday	8 miles or under	34 (32)	379 (408)	11 (13)
FoWW	Morning	9 (9)	130 (149)	14 (16)
FoWW (extra)*	Morning	5 (4)	86 (62)	17 (15)
All walks	Totals	283 (278)	3235 (3605)	11 (13)

The previous year's figures are in brackets.

* Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, i.e. not our usual days for walks. Walks on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday are included in the figures for those days.

Last year 30% of walks were over eight miles; this year the number had fallen to 22%.

The compilers for the programmes for the year were: Jennifer Caddy, Heather Dillon, Margaret France, Frances Morris, Mandy Newman, Andy Piercey, Jim Robertson, Paula Shelley, Damian Wheeler.

Cynthia Chard checked each finished programme for mistakes.

I'd like to thank the leaders for producing the walks, the compilers for collecting them and the members for supporting them.

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Publicity Report – Item 7.5 – Heather Dillon

Although we have not had a dedicated Publicity Officer this year, publicity for Godalming and Haslemere Ramblers has continued thanks to the efforts of various members.

Janet Cole, who looked after publicity while she was a Committee Member until November 2025, has continued to submit short articles to local free magazines each month. Many thanks to Janet for keeping this going.

A particular highlight this year was the publicity surrounding our 50th anniversary celebrations. Keith Bulley did an excellent job of promoting this special occasion, with articles appearing in the following publications:

* **Round & About Magazine** - the August issue covering Godalming, Haslemere and Cranleigh. Read it here: https://books.roundandabout.co.uk/books/GU6-Godalming-0826_LR-VkKE/

* **Haslemere Herald** - in their Community News section on Wednesday 26 August.

* **Ramblers South East Walker** - in the September issue.

* **VantagePoint Magazine** - in the November issue covering Haslemere.

* Kate Ashbrook, who joined us as a guest at our 50th anniversary tea party, also wrote about the event in her blog, with lots of photographs. You can read it here: https://campaignerkate.wordpress.com/2026/07/12/golden-godalming/

As well as the anniversary article, the September issue of South East Walker included two other contributions from Beila Best: one about our Spring Break in Kent and an obituary for Richard Evans.

Our Facebook page continues to be a useful way of sharing photographs and news of our walks. Thanks to Jim Robertson and the other members who contribute photographs and help keep the page active.

We usually have a publicity stall at the Blackheath Fair, which has proved a useful way of raising awareness of our group. Unfortunately, the local community decided not to hold the fair this year.

We have also supported the Haslemere Walking Festival in recent years by providing walk leaders. This year, the festival weekend clashed with our 50th anniversary celebrations, so we were able to offer just one walk, led by Sue Manuel.

Our G&H Newsletter, published three times a year, remains an important way of keeping members up to date with what is happening in the group. After more than a decade as Newsletter Editor, Frances Morris handed over to David Hamill, who produced his first issue in February 2026. Many thanks to Frances for her long service and to David for taking on the role.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who has helped publicise our group and share news of our activities over the past year.

We would welcome a volunteer to take on the role of Publicity Officer. In the meantime, if you are involved in a group activity and would be happy to write a short article about it, please let me know. Photographs are always very welcome!

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Footpath Working Party Report – Item 7.6 – John France

I am pleased to report another very active year of Work Parties, improving footpaths in areas that our group walks regularly as well as resolving issues highlighted by our members. Our working relationship with SCC Countryside Access, in particular Thomas Chatfield who co-ordinates all Surrey Volunteer Groups, is excellent and he is always very complimentary about the quality of our work and the work ethic of our Group. With the planned split of the county into East and West Surrey we will lose Waverley Borough and unfortunately also Thomas who has been allocated to East Surrey. We are waiting to hear what the new Countryside Access structure for West Surrey will be and expect it to be implemented in April 2027.

October 2025

For our October Work Party, we returned to FP 294 between Peperharow Road and Milton Wood. This time to replace a long stretch of boardwalk that was very uneven and starting to rot. Synthetic wood frames were used to lift the boardwalk away from the ground and anti-slip plates were added to the surface. Meanwhile the veg. cutters went onto FP10 by the river to cut back brambles and pull Himalayan Balsam to widen the path.

November 2025

In November we worked on FP 27 that runs from Tuesley Lane past Ladywell Court. This is a footpath frequently used by G&H Members and in need of attention for some time. Surrey County Council's contractor had repaired the stone steps, but the handrail installed by G&H 15 years ago had all but disappeared. Cue for a G&H Work Party. Sections of handrail were installed consisting of twelve posts and synthetic wood handrail attached. The veg. cutters went back to FP 10 to complete last month's footpath widening job as well as carrying out some re-alignment of the footpath where walkers had diverted to avoid sections of sedge and borage.

December 2025

In early December we installed plaques on all work carried out since September 2024. This is important to promote the work that G&H carry out on the footpath network to the general public.

Ahead of our Christmas Lunch at The Sun Inn, Dunsfold, we went back to a footpath we know well that runs behind Turners Mead, Chiddingfold. This now has a planned annual cut by the Council, but only at surface level. We took the opportunity to cut back holly and other bushes to widen the path significantly. Since 2020 this footpath has benefitted from regular attention and is now being well used by locals and walkers.

February 2026

In January our usual Work Party Day falls in the New Year holiday season so we have a month off. Our first Work Party of 2026 was therefore in February. We were at Footpath 273 in Grafham. To call it a footpath was incorrect. It was a totally impassable mass of brambles, blackthorn and bracken. Walkers had been bypassing it by walking in a nearby field. The new owner of the field wanted this stopped. We had an enthusiastic turnout on a very drizzly morning and splitting the group in two we started from either end of the blocked path. Now, G&H are no strangers to a challenge and by 14.00 the two groups met and broke through the final mass of tangled brambles to complete the opening of the path. Thomas was impressed as he had planned for Guildford Ramblers to complete this task later that week. In the event, Guildford were left to dig out bramble roots and tidy up.

March 2026

The very wet weather throughout February meant our March Work Party had to be cancelled. The plan had been to install signage at the Lukyn's estate near Ewhurst, but the ground was too wet to use the SCC truck to deliver the necessary materials to the widely spread-out locations.

April 2026

For our April Work Party, we were south of Witley Station on Chiddingfold FP137. This footpath runs through a very wet woodland area. Historically it was always very muddy but was surfaced a few years ago as it is a popular walking route to and from the station from the nearby trading estate. Over time, sedge and grass has been seeding in the surface narrowing the path and breaking up the surface. Our task was to clear the weed and then repair and level any damage with crushable material and a whacker-plate. While we were there, we took the opportunity of carrying out a veg-cut on the section of footpath south of the trading estate which G&H often walk as part of a circular route from Coombe Common, Chiddingfold.

May 2026

No Work Party this month as Thomas was away on a Training Course.

June 2026

June Work Party was the signage task at Lukyns Farm, Ewhurst postponed from March. The owner was concerned about the public wandering away from the official footpaths and disturbing her very expensive-looking horses in the surrounding fields, hence the pressure on SCC to improve the signage. Thomas was able to drive the tools and materials to where waymark posts were to be installed. We completed a walk and snip on Ewhurst 425b. However, on reaching the main footpath FP425 we found it severely overgrown. We were just able to clear a short section before heavy rain started and we ran for the cars leaving the rest to be cleared by other volunteers or contractors at a later date.

July 2026

This was a repeat of July 2025 with forecast temperature to be in excess of 32C and this time a red warning. We therefore did the sensible thing and cancelled the Work Party.

August 2026

In August we headed out to replace two old stiles with kissing gates on Witley 127 near Great Enton and cut back the hedgerow between them. We parked in nearby fields, and Thomas was able to bring the van with tools and materials right up to the two work sites. The stiles had already been removed, and it looked promising as the ground was sandy and easy to dig. Then our problems began. Both teams found the remains of old Victorian metal fencing and gate posts still buried in the ground and these had to come out. It took three

hours of hard graft to achieve this! The installation of the two gates then went smoothly to everyone's relief. The first gate was donated by G&H and the plan is to make this a memorial gate to Richard Evans who was a Work Party member for many years and only stopped when he reached the age of 88. The other gate was donated by the owners of Enton Fields.

September 2026

We were at Pitchwood Stud in Ewhurst to replace a bridge and install a sleeper bridge on FP 75. This work had initially been planned for March 2023, but the fields around the work site had been churned up by horses and the footpath across them was impassable. Since then, the stud has closed, the fields have recovered and with the bridge, handrail and sleeper bridge repaired by G&H this footpath is now re-opened.

Thank you to everyone who has joined a Work Party this year either as a step/bridge/gate/way marker installer or as a veg cutter. We have an experienced and very hard-working core of volunteers who sadly are getting older. We are looking for new young blood, in the nicest possible way. No experience is necessary just a practical bent, a sense of humour and a willingness to commit four hours on the first Tuesday each month. If you would like to give something back to the footpath network that you enjoy walking on, and want to find out more, please contact me.

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Footpath Secretaries Reports – Item 7.7 – Margaret France & Ian Wilks

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Local Footpath Secretary - Haslemere and Chiddingfold Parishes - Margaret France

Footpath Secretaries are involved with a wide variety of issues that impact the footpath network. They look after several Parishes and are supported by Footpath Wardens who take an interest in the footpaths of a single Parish. With the formation of two unitary authorities for Surrey in April 2027, we are waiting to hear from SCC Countryside Access whether G&H will continue their involvement with the current 13 Parishes or if there will be changes.

1 SCC (Surrey County Council) Biannual Footpath Survey – also referred to as BVPI

These are carried out by Footpath Secretaries, supported by Footpath Wardens, across Surrey in November and May each year. The intention is to survey 5% of the footpath/bridleway network in Surrey each year to determine what percentage is "Easy to Use". In November 2025 I had eight footpaths to survey across Haslemere and Chiddingfold. Most passed but one was an automatic failure because of a missing roadside fingerpost. In May 2026 I had seven to survey and again one was an automatic failure for a missing

roadside finger post. The results for the whole of Surrey for the year showed that 83 % of the footpaths/bridleways surveyed were “Easy to Use”. This figure shows little change over the last 5 years.

2 Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO’s)

The Definitive Map is the legal record of public rights of way in England and Wales. New paths can be added, but the process is quite arduous and requires significant “evidence” usually involving more than 20 years of uninterrupted use of the path by the public.

Two of the DMMO’s mentioned in last year’s AGM report reached a conclusion and a new one added.

- Following a Public Enquiry on March 17 2026 in Cranleigh, where the Objector did not turn up, the new footpaths Cranleigh FP 576 and Alfold FP 564 were officially added to the Definitive Map on 18 May 2026. The Objector still had the ability to take it to the High Court within 6 weeks, but nothing has been heard from SCC so we can assume he thought better of it.
- The path at Potato Copse, south of Witley Station was confirmed by the Secretary of State and the paperwork issued on 8 September 2026 for new footpaths Chiddingfold 558 and Witley 603. Again, the Objector could take it to the High Court, but nothing more has been heard.
- An application has been received by SCC for the deletion of part of Wonersh FP 311. The applicant claims that the footpath was incorrectly recorded on the Definitive Map and should be deleted from the record. SCC is legally obliged to investigate and determine it based on evidence and research. This will join the queue of DMMO’s which are currently taking about 4 years to determine.

3 Commons Registration Act 1965/Commons Act 2006

An application has been made for a new Village Green in Chiddingfold to be located behind St Mary’s Church. It is claimed to have qualified having been used by residents for lawful sports and pastimes for twenty consecutive years. If successful, this will protect this land, and FP 200 which crosses it, from any future development.

4 Landowner Deposits

By making a Deposit with SCC, and pay a fee, Landowners can denote ownership and/or protect their land against any future claims by the public for additional footpaths on their land. These are recorded on the SCC website. Two new ones were added this year in the Parishes I look after.

- On land south of Cox Green Road, Rudgwick. Two footpaths cross this land Ewhurst FP 447 and FP 448 and these are recorded on the Deposit map.
- On a 9-acre piece of land which includes FP 345, a well-used footpath coming north out of Cranleigh crossing the road into Cranleigh School grounds.

5 Footpath Issues of interest

- The owner of Sailtops, Rudgwick failed in his application to divert a footpath where G&H had installed a gate and bridge in 2024. His appeal was dismissed in October 2025 with the attached flowery words from Horsham Planning. "*This path's open, wide grassed entrance, surrounding greenery and informal trodden path contributes to the distinctly tranquil, rural character and verdant appearance of the area".*
- The Wey and Arun Canal Trust have applied to divert part of Bridleway and Footpath Bramley 270 so that they can continue restoration of the canal. The plan is to build a new bridge for the bridleway and let the footpath follow the field edge. The diversion is convenient for walkers so no reason to object.
- G&H were approached by Thakeham Homes as they wanted to carry out work on a narrow strip of Common Land to make an entrance to a building site for 400 homes at Alfold. As this did not relate to a bridleway or footpath it was not within our remit, and I went back to Thakeham to this effect.
- Back in the November BVPI survey I had reported a broken culvert on Chiddingfold FP 227 near Noddings Farm. In April 2026 signs were up saying the path was temporarily closed for culvert repairs. Well done SCC.

6 Enquiries from the Public

- A Livery Yard at Alfold were complaining about juveniles causing a nuisance riding a quadbike at speed on Alfold Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) 407 frightening horses in a nearby field. John Baker (SCC) became involved as this BOAT had an enforceable Traffic Restriction from November to March each year so that taking a vehicle on it was illegal. The Livery owner was able to take photographs of the bike/riders and forward them to the Police for further action.
- G&H and Guildford received an email from a woman annoyed that a footpath she had used for many years had been fenced off by a new landowner at Albury. On checking the path she was referring to, it was not an official footpath or bridleway just a woodland track on private land and so the landowner was within his rights. Guildford took this over, as Albury is one of their Parishes.
- A Parish Councillor from Ewhurst got in touch to see if we could support them in objecting to a development of seven houses at Maybanks north of Rudgwick. The footpath ran along the driveway in front of the proposed development and would not be affected, and so it was not for us to get involved.
- There are further developments at Green Farm, Beacon Hill. We looked at applying for a DMMO on two well used paths back in 2021 when the Countryside Restoration Trust (CRT) made a Deposit with SCC. However, SCC dismissed the Deposit as CRT didn't seem to know what land they owned. In the meantime, they have changed their name to Countryside Regeneration Trust and now have a 10-year plan. They intend to remove all the commercial conifer plantations on their land and this will mean temporary closure of some of the footpaths from Hindhead Golf Course leading up to Frensham Ponds.

7 Planning Applications of Interest (Includes Ewhurst, Cranleigh, Wonersh and Alfold)

One important aspect of the Footpath Secretaries role is to review Planning Applications that could impact local footpaths or bridleways. I received 15 for review during the year as well as 3 notifications of appeals compared to 23 last year. Most related to house or garage extensions with no impact on nearby paths. Many are amendments for large scale developments trying to calm public objections. SCC Countryside Access are very quick to respond to anything that is controversial, so most of the time I am only reviewing them for interest.

8 Task System on Countryside Access Management System (CAMS)

The system is still in place to allocate Tasks to Footpath Secretaries and Footpath Wardens but has not been used in the last year.

9 Ramblers Footpath Forum

These are held roughly quarterly as an on-line meeting and are a very useful way of receiving updates on changes to the law on Rights of Way as well as hearing what projects Ramblers are supporting.

- The October guest speaker was from Ramblers CYMRU who had taken on a role with their Council to find, train and manage around 100 volunteers to assess all the footpaths in their area and complete a major clean-up of the faults recorded in their Countryside Access Management System (CAMS).
- In January the main speaker described work carried out on the 14-mile Colchester Orbital to make it more accessible to wheelchair/pushchair users,
- Accessibility was also the topic for the May Forum with the speaker belonging to a group of disabled walkers called “By all Reasonable Means” emphasising that Wheelers and Trampers are allowed on footpaths and that accessibility can easily be improved by selecting/modifying opening and closing mechanisms on gates.
- In July Ramblers introduced their new “Access Denied” campaign which calls on the Government to protect and expand path networks so that everyone can enjoy safe, easy access to nature close to home. The Labour Government promised to publish a Green Paper on Access to Nature when it came to power. That promise has yet to be delivered.

10 Reporting Faults on Footpaths

You can help keep our footpath network open. A simple way is to take a pair of snips with you on your walks to remove the odd bramble or holly branch in your way. If you see a more major problem like a broken stile, a path blocked by vegetation or blocked by a farmer, why not report it. Either contact the relevant G&H Footpath Secretary or Warden (details at the end of the Walks Programme) or alternatively go to the Surrey County Council website and under Reporting Options, look for Rights of Way and follow the instructions. You will be able

to see if the fault has already been reported, but it is still worth adding your own comment as the Council are more likely to take notice if lots of people are commenting and it also allows you to receive an update if action is taken. There are some 2,800 faults reported on Surrey's footpath network each year so let's make sure that our part of the county receives its fair share of attention.

Godalming & Haslemere Ramblers AGM 21 November 2026

Accounts and Treasurer's Report – Item 8 – Simon Youl

The paragraph numbers are the note numbers in the table following.

1. Ramblers Allowances: We received the group basic allowance in the year of £581.80 and have claimed this again for the coming year.

2. Publications/goods sales: Last year this income came from sales at Blackheath Fair, but this event did not take place this year.

3. Day Walks: Overall the Day Walks were successful this year, although there was a small deficit of £9.81. This was due to the fact that the Avebury coach walk did not have a full take up.

4. Holidays: The overseas holiday is a set cost determined by HF Holidays, so this event will always result in a nil balance.

The Spring Break to Kent made a surplus as expenses were less than anticipated. These funds will help finance future Spring Breaks. The receipts from holidays also includes £1,200 received as deposits for the 2027 Spring Break in Devon. A deposit of £500 has been paid to the hotel in Barnstaple in respect of this holiday.

5. Socials: Social events have been well supported and most are very close to being cost neutral.

We have paid a deposit of £150.00 to secure the date for the New Year Lunch in 2027 and £330 was brought forward in respect of the Skittles evening last October. The takings from the raffles are shown under Main-other and help to cover the hire of the hall for the AGM and travel show.

6. Main Other: The £403 shown as income represents the raffle takings at the AGM and travel show.

7 & 8. Walks Programmes Newsletters and Publicity: Walks Programmes and Newsletters are now produced in house and put on the website for members to access directly. Very few are needed to be printed and posted to members which has significantly reduced our costs.

9. Practical Work: The only cost this year was £224 for plaques but further costs for kissing gates and plaques will be incurred in the next year as funds have been ring-fenced for this purpose.

10. Deficit/Surplus for year: The Main Account balance reflects the fact that we have not managed to carry out some of the Practical Work this year which funds were allocated for. No further funding has been requested for this but it is hoped that we will continue to be able to support Practical Work in the next financial year as noted above.

In addition, the funds held can be used for walk leader and navigation courses as well as first aid training and kits.

Accounts and Treasurer's Report - Year-end 30 September 2026

Receipts				**Notes**	**Prior Year**
Description	**Main**	**Self-funded**	**Totals**	**2025/6 See above**	**2024/2025**
Ramblers Allowances	581.80		581.80	**1**	
Ramblers Other					
Donations					
Fundraising					
Publications/goods sales				**2**	142.50
Day Walks		£4,042.00	£4,042.00	**3**	£5,447.98
Holidays		£59,137.00	£59,137.00	**4**	£69,301.40
Socials		£4,315.30	£4,315.30	**5**	£4,507.35
Other		£403.00	£403.00	**6**	£406.00
Totals	**£581.80**	**£67897.30**	**£68,479.10**		**£79,805.23**

Payments				**Notes**	**Prior Year**
Description	**Main**	**Self-funded**	**Totals**	**2025/6**	**2024/2025**
Walks Programmes				**7**	
Newsletters/Publicity	£7.99		£7.99	**8**	£31.67
Publication/goods costs					
Practical Work	£224.00		£224.00	**9**	£470.26
Walk Leader Training					£81.00
Meetings (AGM)	£100.00		£100.00		£84.00
Admin	£43.64		£43.64	**8**	£4.40
Other (Main)	£16.49		£16.49		£54.00

Day Walks		£4,051.81	£4,051.81	**3**	£5,315.81
Holidays		£56,986.27	£56,986.27	**4**	£68.896.61
Socials		£4,794.86	£4,794.86	**5**	£4,094.82
Other (Self-funded)		£8.15	£8.15		£34.70
Totals	**£392.12**	**£65,841,09**	**£66233.21**		**£79,067.27**

Bank Position	**Main**	**Self-funded**	**Total**	**Notes**	**2024/5**
Opening cash at bank	£2,192.95	£3,209.40	£5,402.35		£4,664.39
Surplus for year	£189.68	£2,056.21	£2,245.89	**10**	£737.96
Closing cash at bank	**£2,382.63**	**£5,265.61**	**£7,648.24**		**£5,402.35**

Godalming and Haslemere Ramblers – AGM – November 2026

Accounts and Treasurer's Report - Year-end 30 September 2026

Balance Sheet

Assets	**Main**	**Self-funded**	**Totals**	**Notes**	**2024/2025**
Investments	£106.25		£106.25		£106.25
Cash & Bank	£2,382.63	£5,265.61	£7,648.24		£5,402.35
Total	**£2,488.88**	**£5,265.61**	**£7,754.49**		**£5,508.60**
Liabilities					
Creditors					
Prepaid Income					
Total Liabilities					
Net Assets/liabilities	**£2,488.88**	**£5,265.61**	**£7,754.49**		**£5,508.60**
Movement in Funds			**£2,245.89**		**£738.14**
Receipts & Payments			**£2,245.89**		**£737.96**
Variance - Investments			**£0.00**		**£0.18**

Simon Youl **Date:**

G&H Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Statement

Having carried out procedures in accordance with the Area and Groups' Examination Guidelines I consider Godalming and Haslemere Accounts to give a fair representation of the Group's financial activities for the year to 30 September 2026.

A**nn Harmes** **Date:**