

RAMBLERS : TYNESIDE GROUP ANNUAL REPORT

1st October 2024 - 30th September 2025

Chairman's Report - Mark Nugent

Another year of walking has passed with many steps & miles covered. Thanks to all who support Tyneside Ramblers, you are the people who make the group the success that it is. Special thanks must be given to the Coach Organisers and Walks Leaders. They do great work and always seem to find welcoming pubs and cafés where we can enjoy some 'post-walk' socialising. Also on behalf of the Coach Organisers, heartfelt thanks to all those who support them in maintaining the smooth running of their coaches.

During the year's programme we have visited a few new destinations and returned to old friends, often accompanied with our old friends, mud and rain - the joys of rambling. Regarding pubs that are mentioned on the walks sheets, the Coach Coordinators often arrange with the local pub to open early, which often involves them in bringing extra staff. Please use the pub stated on the walk sheet so as to avoid the embarrassment of the Walks Coordinator sitting in a pub alone, surrounded by staff asking him where is every one!

The new format of the web site remains popular and, as last year, the combined destination list has been well received. Our Facebook group 'Tynewalks' is well subscribed with regular contributors providing some great photos. We also have an Instagram site. Use of WhatsApp has proved useful on the Boulevard coach who have a 'coach members' group. Please promote Tyneside Ramblers with your social circles, membership has a natural wastage which needs replenishing for our Group to remain successful.

Secretary's Report - Gill Dallow

This has been a steady year and there seems to be a more positive feeling of commitment from members new and old and hopefully, the doldrums that followed Covid is beginning to be something from the past.

Ramblers HO are focussing their attention on updating and verifying training for existing Walk Leaders. We are very fortunate in having a lot of experienced and committed Leaders but we do need to expand our pool. Anyone interested in leading walks should take the opportunity to be mentored by someone with all this expertise and enjoy the experience of 'learning on the job'. According to a recent new Leader, the online training required by Ramblers then just became 'a matter of common sense'.

We may mutter about Head Office bureaucracy but Ramblers does provide us with a wonderful 'umbrella' under which we can travel around the countryside, enjoy our walking and appreciate each other's company.

Treasurer's Report - Alistair Webster

The audited accounts and Treasurer's Report are included at the end.

Membership Secretary's Report - Gill Dallow

All the coaches have welcomed some new faces but unfortunately the number of resignations, leavers and deaths means that overall, there has been a loss of 13 members. Our given present total is 570.

One of the main concerns of Ramblers HO is that should the total membership dip below 100,000, then sponsorship, such as that from the Postcode Lottery, would be withdrawn and this low total membership would not attract other sponsors.

Website Manager's Report - Brian Kram

The summer/autumn and winter/spring walk schedules were loaded up well in advance of the due dates. As well as the schedule for each coach, the consolidated one-page document of all four coaches was loaded near the top of the web page. Both are maintained as and when future planned walks change.

The Tyneside Group web page is updated each week by all of our coaches. Descriptions of future walks, as well as the detailed walks for that week are all posted.

The main image at the top of the web page is regularly changed by David Crowe. Each Coach also has a graphic image which is updated as we receive photos taken on the actual walks throughout the year.

The second page "What we do" contains information about the Heritage Way, Scottish Core Footpaths and possible contributions earned from Ramblers Worldwide Holidays.

Footpath Secretary's Report - Steve Germain

The Footpath Volunteers group have been out 5 times this year, and the focus has again been on revisiting areas in South Northumberland which have already been surveyed before during the last few years. Their efforts, which are very

efficiently managed by David Dallow, continue to be appreciated by the Northumberland ROW Officers involved.

Throughout the year I have reported 11 footpath faults, most of which have now been acknowledged. It is important that we report any problems we encounter on our (individual or group) walks so that they can be logged and attended to by the appropriate Highway Authority, most of whom are still subject to budgetary and manpower constraints.

I reported 0 accidents last year to the Ramblers Led Walks Team. It is important that we continue to report any incidents so that we all can learn from them if possible.

The current status of the Morley Hill Farm situation is that the Developers have cleared away the vegetation and it now remains for the Landowner to enter a deed of dedication to record the new paths as highways, as per the S106 agreement. I will continue to chase the Newcastle ROW Officer to ensure this is done.

The Heritage Way Walk has become established and feedback, which is welcomed from users via the website, (superbly managed by David Crowe) has been forthcoming throughout the past 5 years, most of it very positive. The Section Stewards, managed by Judith Taylor continue to oversee the maintenance and upkeep of the paths. The second edition of the handbook is now available from Amazon and efforts continue to re-route the path in a couple of problematic areas, in Backworth and Gateshead.

Coach Organisers

Sunday 9.30am - Sue Patterson

The group has had another successful year. An average of 39 members have come out each week.

The good turnout over the summer months still made it possible for us to reduce the fare to £10 for the winter months (December to March)

It is worth noting that pre-paid advance bookings have continued to be low with an average of only 19 per week. Numbers have once again been made up by standby bookings made through the week - an average of 20.

In December, due to low bookings, Sally and I decided to join forces and we ran just one coach to Barnard Castle, thus minimising our losses.

Our planned trip on 5th January was cancelled due to an amber warning for heavy snow - the prospect of being stuck in Blanchland overnight (or longer) did not appeal.

Our annual meal in February at The Cottage Inn, Dunstan was very enjoyable - good food and excellent service from the staff.

We all enjoyed the sunny Spring weather, and everyone was stunned by the swathes of bluebells in the woods near Ripley at the end of April. Another highlight was Malham Cove on a lovely, sunny day in August. Less enjoyable were the killer midges that kept us company near Falstone!

Sunday 9.30am 'St. James' - Sally Shotton

We have had another steady year with an average turnout down from 36 last year to 31 this year. Illness and injury have played a big part in our lower numbers.

Financially, we started the year with a balance of £2917 in the bank, but by August this had declined to £1542. Consequently it was agreed to raise fares to £15 a trip, in order to maintain the account balance at a reasonable £1500 and therefore keep the coach running.

Our first trip of the year had to be cancelled due to an adverse weather forecast for snow, which proved to be the correct decision on the day. We then had our well attended annual New Year's meal at Twice Brewed.

We have had several new members try us out this year, with a few becoming regulars, although not as many as I would have hoped.

A couple more of our group have now completed the Incident Management course and found it very useful.

We have only had one incident this year when a member fell and hurt her hip. Luckily nothing was broken and she made a full recovery.

Wednesday 9.30am 'Boulevard' - Gordon Lumsden

Another year with the Wednesday Boulevard Coach and this last year has been very much like the previous one.

The best walk still starts with a visit to the coffee shop, although we no longer have 'The Best Walk of the Day' award. One walk usually gets in with just enough time for coffee and cake.

The coach finances remain in good shape - could be that the coach is now nearly full most weeks.

We have at least one new Walk Leader but too many 'new' walkers only come with us for one or two weeks, - wonder why?

Thanks to Diane and Lynda for organising ceilidhs, birthday cakes, plus our Christmas meal with dancing and games!

Remember that Confucius tells us that as you get older the years become shorter and the miles become longer.

Wednesday 10.00am 'Hancock' - Ruth Sides

We have had a good year with a variety of walks including some new destinations, Wylam and Hesketh Newmarket, where both pubs made us very welcome.

The fare has varied between £10 and £15 throughout the year and, in an effort to reduce the group's surplus, we ended with an intended loss of £633. During the year we have slowly gained new walkers and the average turn out in the last quarter was 47. This is our highest average since covid. The coach was full on several occasions.

In January we had a very enjoyable meal at the Twice Brewed Inn with entertainment provided by members of the group. Some of our memorable walks during the year were, Holy Island in torrential rain and Haltwhistle, where one of group sat by the river watching oystercatchers feeding their young - a beautiful sight.

We've had a good number of new walkers, some of whom are now regulars. This is very encouraging, but we also need some of them to become more active in the running of the group.

Treasurer's Report: including the audited Accounts attached below.

December 2025

TYNESIDE RAMBLERS**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2025****GENERAL ACCOUNT**

Income	2024/2025	2023/2024
	£	£
Allocation from Northern Area	1090	644
Bank Interest Received	3	11
Donations	<u>20</u>	<u>-</u>
	1113	655
Expenditure:		
Accountancy	(240)	(240)
First Aid Training	(605)	(540)
Room Hire	(456)	(229)
Sundry Expenses	(-)	(3)
Tools	<u>(-)</u>	<u>(315)</u>
	(1301)	(1331)
<u>Net Deficit on General Account</u>	(188)	(676)

COACH AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Receipts	Expenses	Surplus/(Deficit)	
Sunday Hancock	23370	(23487)	(117)	1504
Sunday St James	10320	(11665)	(1345)	(240)
Wed 09.30	27640	(26340)	1300	465
Wed 10.00	<u>24908</u>	<u>(25541)</u>	<u>(633)</u>	<u>329</u>
	86238	(87033)	(795)	2058
Deposit Account Interest	—	—	—	—
<u>Net Surplus/(Deficit) on Coaching and Social Activities</u>		(795)		2058
<u>Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year</u>		£ <u>(983)</u>		£ <u>1382</u>

Treasurer's Report 2024/25**Financial Position**

The financial position at the year-end was very satisfactory.

Income from coach-based walks was similar to the previous year, whilst expenses, mainly coach hire costs have increased, resulting in a deficit of £795 on self-financing activities. This compares with a surplus of £2058 in the previous year.

At the start of the year, the coaches had strong reserves, so the individual coach secretaries were encouraged to reduce them to a level equivalent to approximately two month's coach hire costs by adjusting fares as appropriate. Consequently, three of the four coaches reported a deficit for the year. Nevertheless, all four coaches had adequate reserves at the end of the year. The coach secretaries will continue to adjust fares throughout 2025/26 to ensure that each coach has adequate but not excessive reserves.

The General Account generated a small deficit of £188 for the year compared to a deficit of £676 in the previous year. However, the account continues to have adequate funds to meet ongoing administrative costs.

The overall deficit for the year is £983, compared with the previous year's surplus of £1382.

At the end of the year Group Funds were a satisfactory £14253.

Our thanks go to Clarkes Chartered Accountants for conducting the Independent Examination of the Accounts.

Alistair Webster
Treasurer

TYNESIDE RAMBLERS
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2025

CURRENT ASSETS		2024/2025	2023/2024
		£	£
Bank Account Balances	Current Deposit		Current Deposit
General	638		829
Sunday Hancock	5089		5193
Sunday St James	1592		2917
Wednesday 9.30	4856		3296
Wednesday 10.00	3779		4442
Deposit Account	<u>241</u>		<u>238</u>
	15954 241	16195	16777 238 17015
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors			
Accruals		(240)	(240)
Coach Hire		(-)	(100)
Fares in Advance		<u>(1702)</u>	<u>(1439)</u>
		(1942)	(1779)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		£ <u>14253</u>	£ <u>15236</u>
Represented by:			
CAPITAL RESERVE			
Opening Balance		15236	13854
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for Year		<u>(983)</u>	<u>1382</u>
		£ <u>14253</u>	£ <u>15236</u>

Signed:

Alistair Webster

Date:

1/12/2025

Alistair Webster (Treasurer)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

Having carried out procedures in accordance with the Area and Group Independent Examination Guidelines, we consider the Tyneside Group accounts to have been properly prepared and give a true and fair view of the Group's finances for the year to 30 September 2025.

Signed:

Clarke's

Date:

1st December 2025

Clarke's Chartered Accountants
Newcastle upon Tyne