



RAMBLERS

Cornwall



NEWSLETTER, DEC 25

CHAIR'S REPORT DEC 25

Welcome everyone to our newsletter for December 2025!

The Area AGM will take place on the 31st of January 2026 and will be hosted by our Camel group. Everyone is welcome to attend joining in both the morning walk and the AGM in the afternoon. It is always a great social event. Details are in the AGM Notice. We welcome members to attend for all or part of the day.

I would like to thank all my fellow Cornwall Area Committee members; we are a team who work together and support each other. So, thank you for all your work over the last 12 months. As Chair I see how much work our Area Committee members do on a voluntary basis.

I would like to thank our Groups: Camel, Caradon, Cornwall South and West and our group for younger members Kernow Boots. Groups are subdivisions of Area and all continue to be active, so thank you to all their volunteers who give up their time to support their group from walk leaders to committee members.

And finally, of course I wish to thank all our members in the Area who continue to take part in Group Walks, our monthly coastal walks and other activities like Path Maintenance. I would like to encourage all members to think about becoming a walk leader in order to share your favourite walk with your Group or even take on one of our volunteer roles. Cornwall Ramblers is solely run by volunteers.

We really NEED more volunteers to come and help to keep us running and active. It might be a daunting prospect, but we can

offer advice, training, guidance and support plus The Ramblers have volunteer resources and training materials online.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

Vice Chair on Area Committee.

Assistant Webmaster for Social Media,

Rights of Way Officers particularly for West Penwith and St. Agnes/Truro area

Monthly Coastal Walk Organiser – this is a shared role with Julie Tombs. Julie organises coaches and walk leaders for the North and East of Cornwall so we need a keen volunteer for the South and West Area of Cornwall.

A few photos of my recent walks:

Looking across from Housel Bay to Pen Olver on a cold November day.





Early morning
Kynance in August
for a swim before
the crowds arrive!

Footpath to Polurrian Cove
with my walking companion,
Finn! Plus, the optional
seaweed! October 2025.



Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See
you at the AGM in January 2026

Anne Tryhorn, Cornwall Ramblers Area Chair

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Area Council: (The meetings will be on Zoom)

Thurs 8th Jan 2026 4pm Thurs 23rd Apr 2026 4pm

Thurs 23rd Jul 2026 4pm Thurs 29th Oct 2026 4pm

CRAG: (The meetings will be on Zoom)

Mon 5th Jan 2026 10am Mon 13th Apr 2026 10am

Tues 14th Jul 2026 10am Mon 19th Oct 2026 10am

RIGHTS OF WAY REPORT

Our Rights of Way Officers throughout Cornwall are all committed to keeping our paths open and in playing our part in protecting rights of way and access to places we all love to walk.

We deal with planning applications, Path Orders, DMMOs (Definitive Map Modification Order), lost paths, path obstructions, poor signing and more. All footpaths, Byways, Bridleways are as important as public roads and have the same protection under the law.

County Councils must keep a record of public rights of way (PROWs) and this is called the definitive map. Cornwall Council keep us informed. Our Rights of Way Officers meet four times a year – this Area run group is called CRAG (Cornwall Ramblers Action Group). Each RoW Officer is responsible for parishes often close to where they live (not essential but handy). They keep a record of their work and

write a report for the meetings and to inform their local group of their work.

Our Officers also take part in path clearance. REACT (Ramblers Environmental Action Clearance Team) are a team of volunteers who work to maintain and clear public footpaths. Currently, some of our REACT work is paused after losing our wonderful Rights of Way Officer Bob Fraser, but with more volunteers willing to help we may start our work again.

Cornwall South and West Group have their own Path Maintenance Team. This was originally started by Ken Sharp and then with Ken moving to Lancashire and Covid it had a hiatus. I managed to get this up and running again with the Group now registered as Cormac volunteers. I passed the team leadership onto Sam Annison who is doing an amazing job fully supported by our Rights of Way Officers and other volunteers, Thank you all.

CAN YOU HELP?

Simply, the answer is YES! We need more volunteers and Rights of Way Officers for parishes in West Penwith and St. Agnes/Truro area. Please contact me on email below. We also need volunteers for footpath maintenance – do contact your local group to help.

Rambler Members reporting path issues are very helpful - first to Cornwall Council, but also inform the Rights of Way Officer for that area.

HOW TO REPORT PATHS!

1. Take a photo of the problem.
2. Report to Cornwall Council. Here is the link: [Public Rights of Way - Cornwall Council](#)

Scroll down to find the reporting form [Forms](#) It is easy to use and will help you find your issue on the definitive map.

3. Tell the Cornwall Ramblers Rights of Way Officer for that area – if you don't know who, contact chaircornwallramblers@outlook.com
4. Finally, THANK YOU!

Anne Tryhorn, Area Rights of Way Officer

COASTAL RAMBLERS NEWS

Cornwall Coastal Ramblers is an active group of members who enjoy walking the coastpath. We do consecutive sections on the first Saturday of each month.

The next dates are 6th December 2025 from Mevagissey to Carlyon Bay and 3rd January 2026 from Carlyon Bay to Fowey.

The distances of the walks can be anything from 7 miles to 12 miles depending on the terrain. The walks can be challenging on certain sections so walkers need a good level of fitness. The group varies from about 20 to 30 usually.

It takes around 3 years to do a full circuit of Cornwall from Cremyll near Plymouth to Morwenstowe near Bude. We give out badges to those who have completed the circuit. All walks are advertised on the Ramblers website.

As the walks are usually linear we use a coach to get from the end point (where we park our cars) to the start point of the

walk. All details are on the Ramblers website and there is a £10 charge for the coach either paid by BACS beforehand or cash on the day. Places on the coach need to be prebooked by contacting Julie Tombs (julietombs4@gmail.com). 07476 124883.

Below is a photo from November's 2025 walk from Caerhayes to Mevagissey taken by Mike Stansbury.



After many years of running the group and then co-running it with myself, John Skinner has now stepped down from running Cornwall Coastal ramblers so there is a vacancy in West Cornwall for a coordinator. I run the East Cornwall section. Please contact me if you wish to help. julietombs4@gmail.com

Many thanks go to John for all his hard work.

Julie Tombs, Joint Coastal Walks Secretary

TAMARA WAY REPORT 2025

The Tamara Way is a coast to coast trail across the South West Peninsular from Plymouth on the South Coast between Devon and Cornwall to Morwenstow on the North Coast just above Bude. This is 90 miles long and follows the Tamar from its source up near the North Coast to the mouth in Plymouth Sound.

Myself and Liam briefly discussed this in 2024 and agreed to run it for the Ramblers this year and set eight dates. Three in May which were led by myself (Julie Tombs from Caradon Ramblers), Three in June led by Rob Norman and two in July led by Ann Jones (Ann and Rob are from South and West Cornwall). All walks would be linear and Liam organized coaches to take us to the start points and overnight accommodation was organized by the walkers themselves. Ann did the administration for the walkers signing up.



For the first stage we based ourselves in Plymouth, the second stage was based near Launceston and the third near Bude. We were extremely lucky with the weather so only walked in rain on the very last day in July.

An average of 25 walkers for each day signed up with the majority coming from Cornwall or East Devon and the distances were anything from 9 miles to a memorable 16 miles on day 4. Terrain was generally moderate with a few strenuous sections particularly on days 4 and day 8. We did evening meals at pubs or restaurants on the days away which were great opportunities to get to know the walkers better and review the days walking.

I would say on reviewing the trail afterwards that the first four stages were lovely with varied scenery from riverside paths to small villages and country lanes and field paths but stages 5 and 6 were very much mostly on lanes due to landowners not agreeing to the trail going over their land. Stages 7 and 8 followed part of the old Bude canal and the South West Coast Path from Marsland Mouth to Morwenstow for the last section. Sadly because of the weather on the last day we did not get many views but we were rewarded with a great cream tea at The Rectory Tea Rooms in Morwenstow.

The route is generally well signposted with the first few stages combined with the Tamar Valley Discovery Route which has been around for a while. We definitely needed the OS map route and the Tamara Way handbook as the trail is not straightforward and there are two separate options in some areas with one on the Devon side and one on the Cornwall side. We followed the primary route.

Memorable moments included:

The Lopwell Dam tidal crossing.

The Weir Quay café on the Bere Alston peninsular where we indulged in home made ice cream and cakes.



Calstock Viaduct

A never ending hill at Horsebridge in very hot weather.

The Old Bude Canal and Upper Tamar Lakes, a lovely beauty spot.



The source of the River Tamar where a sculpture has been erected and The North Cornwall Coast.



NEWS FROM CAMEL GROUP

Together, we help keep the paths open. Thanks to all our Members for supporting your volunteers in their many busy roles.

What great walking weather we've had since the last newsletter. A really good summer (even August was hot and dry in the main) and a lovely autumn which lasted and lasted; our AGM walk in the middle of November was warm and dry. Thanks to everyone who came to the recent AGM, all input welcome. We all agreed the venue in Lanivet was really good; modern hall with all mod cons, own car park and café too. It was a recce for the Area AGM at the end of January (Sat 31st) as it's our turn to be the hosts. Do please come and support us.

Here are the main reports from the AGM for your information.

Camel AGM 2025 Walks Secretary Report

Firstly I want to say a huge thank you to all our current walk leaders who have done a fantastic job and without them, there would be no walks.

We have covered a large area of Cornwall this year with walks on both the south and north coast, along rivers, through woods and following streams ranging from St Agnes on the north coast right up to Bude and Otterham and many others in between. We have visited temperate rain forests, many churches and walked over the Treffry Viaduct, plus some sections of the Saints Way.

Whilst I want to thank everyone who has led a walk, I want to mention Donna for her walks covering areas of Bodmin Moor which have included being welcomed into Wesley's Church in

Trewint for a special talk and tea by the current minister, and being given permission to visit Loveny Nature Reserve and Colliford Lake in areas not normally open to the public. Thanks also go to Brian for the large number of walks he has done which are enjoyed by a large number of Ramblers most Fridays.



Daymer Bay in sunshine

Bodmin Moor in wet weather gear



To date this year we have had 65 walks, and had to cancel nine, due to bad weather, most of them over the winter but also a couple in July and August.

We can always do with more walk leaders, and if anyone is keen to join our band of walk leaders, online training will be provided by the Ramblers and the more walk leaders we have the better. All are welcome. Please ask and you will be made very welcome.

This year the Ramblers have introduced new training for all walk leaders, which some have completed, and I would like to thank those who have done the training and are registered to lead walks. I would also like to urge those who have yet to complete this training to please do so as soon as possible in order to continue to lead walks. We have until the end of this year to get our records up to date. Once undertaken this will be valid for three years, and will then need to be renewed. Unfortunately if anyone does not complete the training they will be unable to lead a walk, so please if you are a current walk leader, we need you.

Finding walks

I believe some people have difficulty finding our walks. In order to clarify as soon as they are listed on the Ramblers website, they go on to the app at the same time and are also put on to our Facebook site with a link to the walk. I know they sometimes drop down the list, which is when it can be difficult to find them, but each walk is also added to the Featured section as well and remains there until after the walk has taken place.

In Any Other Business in last year's AGM it was asked about insurance for walks. Only registered walk leaders are covered by insurance. I have printed off a copy of the Walk Leader's Insurance Fact Sheet & FAQs which can be found on the Ramblers website in the document library.

All walk leaders can access this information by logging into

their accounts – along with lots of other helpful information, including Walks Manager and the Training Library.

I also note that in last year's Minutes it was mentioned that we could do the Saints Way. This is something I would like to take forward with help from other members. I have spoken to Mary Hicks who has said she might be able to help with the organisation, and with Paula also.

Mary Brooks

Camel AGM 2025, R of W Report

Any Planning Application submitted to Cornwall Council that is within 10m of a Public Right of Way is forwarded to Cornwall Ramblers who are Consultees and therefore invited to comment, Object or No Objection.

Cornwall has approximately 2,750 miles of PROW's including the 300 mile Coast Path. N. Cornwall has 696 miles, approximately 25%.

From March to the end of September Hilda and I have reviewed 57 Planning Applications, with one Objection. Since October when Hilda took on the Restormel area and we divided the N. Cornwall parishes between us I have had a further eleven more, all No Objection.

I also went to a presentation in Camelford regarding extending the Camel Trail from Wenford Bridge to Camelford.

Unfortunately the organisers, Walk Wheel Cycle (formerly known as Sustrans) were proposing a cycle route that uses existing roads and is nowhere near the river Camel. In fact it enters Camelford via Tregoodwell. So that was rather disappointing!

We also look at DMMO's, Definitive Map Modification Orders, over the last eight months I have had notifications about seven

applications that are ongoing. These are usually additions of Bridleways or Byways, most date back to 2022 so these Modifications move very slowly!

Cornwall Council are now reviewing their ROWIP, Right of Way Improvement Plan, which is 18 years old, I think several people had the opportunity to make comments on this online.

Tom Langthorne

We had a good meeting with Imerys quite recently, in their nice offices in St Austell; they told us of their plans for maintaining and extending their many permissive paths, the Clay Trails, and improving the signage.

There is lots and lots of information on the Ramblers website so I won't go on and on but please if anyone is struggling to find their way around and wants help please do get in touch. At the AGM we did wonder whether we should have get-togethers to look at Ramblers and Cornwall Council websites, I find it is so much easier to share. Again the venue at Lanivet is ideal as they have wifi and big screens.

Vacancy For Membership Secretary

Following our Annual General Meeting on Sat Nov 15th, the Camel Group have a vacancy for a Membership Secretary. This is a very important role in welcoming new members to our group. As a membership secretary, you offer a warm welcome to new members, keep them informed and help everyone feel part of the Ramblers.

All information relating to the role can be found on the Ramblers Website where there is guidance for all the volunteer roles that members can get involved with, plus online training to assist with the many roles that make up the Ramblers. The Ramblers state: Every volunteer role at the Ramblers is unique, with different responsibilities and areas of focus. Whether you're leading a walk, protecting our paths and

access, handling finances, or supporting new members, we want to make sure you have the guidance and resources needed to carry out your role with confidence.

So, please, if you are interested in volunteering for the role of Membership secretary, or any other role, do get in touch with us via: camelwalks@gmail.com

I better finish rambling on now because I am going to complete my walk leader training today! I've done two of the three modules; it won't take long to do the last, it's not like you have to do it all in one go or every year even.

Thanks to everyone for your support and hope to see you sometime, maybe the Xmas Meal or next year at the Area AGM.

Hilda Blacklaw, Camel Chair

UPDATE FROM CARADON

Caradon has again enjoyed a number of lovely walks over the last six months. We offer a varied programme with easy walks of about 4-6 miles and more challenging ones of 11-12 sometimes on moorland, some in the countryside or on the coastpath.

Many thanks to all walk leaders who have volunteered through the year. Below are two photos from walks we have done over the last six months. The first is around Lewtrenchard and the second from Bude.



We received a generous bequest this year from Chris Mitchell and the committee has decided to spend this on a gate to replace two stiles on the Looe to Liskeard trail which is also part of the Smugglers Way and one we often walk. Carol Craze has led the substantial work to get this sorted over the last few months and many thanks go to her for this.

We have sadly lost two other members of Caradon this year, Daphne Pearce and Jo Colwill. Below is an obituary for Jo written by Carol Craze and one for Daphne written by Sheila Brown.

Julie Tombs, Caradon Group Secretary

In memory of Caradon Ramblers member Jo Colwill

We were all sad to hear that Jo had died. We all knew that Jo had been courageously battling with a cancer diagnosis for some time; not that it stopped Jo from joining us on walks and social occasions whenever she could.

A popular and well liked member of the group, Jo always had

something kind to say about everyone. She especially liked it when her walking friends showed some kindness to her. This could be helping her out if she forgot her boots, by gifting her with a new backpack, by giving her some plants, by offering her a lift. Every kindness, and there were many, was received with pure and genuine thanks. Jo was truly one of those people who brought out the best in those around her. She loved being part of Caradon Ramblers Group, enjoying the variety of walks, walking holidays and social events it had to offer. She will be missed because there was only one Jo.

In memory of Caradon Ramblers member Daphne Pearce

I have known Daphne since I first joined Caradon Ramblers, which must have been in the 1970's; I would have been in my mid-twenties, & Daphne in her early thirties. We got to know each other during rambles, some of which she led, and, over the years before I moved to Kent, we did some long-distance paths together, sometimes with others, sometimes just the two of us, the last two (Offa's Dyke Path & the West Highland Way) with Pat Sambells, whom some of you may remember.

During these we took turns at navigating - not Daphne's strong suit. Once, on the Offa's Dyke path, when it was her turn to read the directions we scrambled over a ditch, across a field & through a hedge before she resumed reading: "Our route, however...."

We kept in touch while I lived in Kent, and when I returned we resumed doing things together. I would take a break from the Country Market to visit her for tea & cake every Wednesday. We'd go together to the Liskeard Show every year, and my first outing after the first covid lockdown was to walk with Daphne in the woods along the River Lynher.

In later years Daphne left the main body of Caradon Ramblers to walk with the Rambling On group, sometimes leading walks as before. She was always short, and it was only when my own legs began to shrink that I appreciated how fast she had to move her legs to keep up with the rest of us.

Even in her last years Daphne never fully retired from her business as a seamstress; she was always ready to undertake a bit of sewing for a friend or neighbour, sometimes refusing payment. I shall always remember her as a generous friend.

HAPPENINGS IN CORNWALL SOUTH & WEST

Hello, Our Cornwall South and West Ramblers group has been very active this year. We have 18 active leaders offering 9-11 walks per month. Our group size varies seasonally with more walkers during the winter months particularly on Saturdays, which have the most walkers (20-30). Our group has a healthy membership of 366 people.

This year Liam Reinhardt coordinated the 8-day (~90 mile) Tamara trail walks, which were held over 3 different residential trips in May, June and July. These walks were ably led by Julie Tombs, Robert Norman and Anne Jones. Julie has an article about our adventures in this newsletter.

Next year Liam will introduce '*Devon for a day*' trips using a coach to allow all of us to relax and enjoy the journey without the worry of driving: it also enables us to do linear walks. A driver will pick us up (probably) in Blackwater, take us to the start then collect us at the end of the day. There is scope to pick up additional walkers in the Bodmin area. This trip is likely to cost £28 per person because we will have the driver for the entire day. Our first venture in April will start in Tavistock to

follow the Dartmoor Way High Moor Link along good paths. Two walks are offered, both beginning in Tavistock: a shorter 8 mile version will stop at a pub in Princetown while some walkers continue on to Hexworthy (13 miles). These two groups will have separate leaders and move at a different pace. If this first trip is successful Liam plans to lead more of these daytrips over the summer.

Our path clearing activities restarted in January after a long covid hiatus. Our team has cleared 18 paths up to the time of writing in November. Parishes we have worked in this year: Mullion, Crowan, Breage, Kea, Camborne, Stithians, Wendron, Perranzabuloe, Veryan, Cubert, currently working in St Allen. Thanks to our regular volunteers: Anne Jones, Carol Brittle, Dougie Johns, Kevin Gibson, Lizzie Simmons, Nick Cherry and Ronnie George. Others who have helped out at least once include Anne Tryhorn, David Cooper and Gill Eade.



A special thanks to Sam Annison who recently took over coordination of clearing activities from Anne Tryhorn. The photos shown above are the before and after at Veryan path 327/22/1 – this long stretch of path had a blockage and was heavily overgrown.

Earlier this year our group raised £952 to build a Granite memorial bench to honour Bob Fraser, who championed rights of way all across Cornwall. We have taken delivery of the bench so the next step is to install it near St Agnes, along a section of path that he helped clear. We plan to hold an official unveiling in the spring with some of his family present.

Our AGM will be held at the Fox & Hounds, Comford, Redruth on Saturday 13th December. Kelly Rickard is leading a circular walk from the pub car park to Gwennap Church and Pit, continuing up to Carn Marth, starting at 09:30 for those that wish to work up an appetite before lunch at 1pm. The full Christmas meal is optional and must be pre-booked, but please feel free to make your own lunch arrangements. The Agm will begin immediately after the meal.

We are looking for a volunteer to help coordinate our publicity activities including our walks booklets. We sell these for a profit, but they need updating. We have volunteers to help with this but no one to coordinate. If you are interested in helping out please contact Liam at liamr.csawwalks@gmail.com

Liam Reinhardt, Chair Cornwall South and West

WALKS BOOKS

Ten Walks around Falmouth (3km/2miles to 11km/7miles): £3.50 (all prices include p&p.)

Ten Rambles in the Roseland (4km/2.5miles to 13km/8miles): £3.50

Ten Walks around Truro (6.5km/4miles to 11km/7miles): £3.50

Nine Walks on individual cards starting from stations on the Truro/Falmouth branch line: £3.50

Walks around Shortlanesend: £2.00

Five Walks Around Wendron: (3.25 miles to 8½ miles) A Glossy booklet packed with farming and mining history, colour maps & photos £3.50

Available from Mary Weston - 01326 372462 marynsophe@aol.com

Six Coastal Walks with Inland Returns in or on the Lizard, Book 1 (5.5km/3.5 miles to 13km/8 miles)

Six Circular Coast and Country Walks on the Lizard, Book 2 (6.5km/4 miles to 11 km/7 miles)

Six Coastal Walks with Inland Returns in Penwith 1 (3 km/2 miles to 11 km/7 miles)

Six Coastal Walks with Inland Returns in Penwith 2 (3 km/2 miles to 11 km/7 miles) Price £2.50 per copy, including p&p.

The Ramblers' Association is a registered charity (number 1093577) and a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (number 4458492). Regd Office: 1 Clink Street, 3rd Floor, London, England, SE1 9DG
www.ramblers.org.uk