

North London & South Herts Group Report 2024/25

Committee:

Chair –

Jean Scott; Secretary – Lucy Welch; Minutes Secretary – Joanna Price; Membership Secretary – Lucy Welch; Treasurer – Joanna Price; Walks Co-ordinator - John Baxter; Social Midweek Walks – Irene Nichols; Newsletter Editor – Lavern James; Social Secretary – Jean Scott (temporary); Committee Member – Penny Baxter; Webpage editor – John Baxter; Footpath Secretary and Area Representative – Ian Hardy

Committee support:

Walks Data Management and Walks Library – Peter Jenkins
Social Events – Christine Greene and Christine Davis

Ramblers are continuing to make changes including introducing mandatory online training for new leaders which came into effect in May. Existing leaders are required to have read the Walk Leader Handbook and led 12 walks over the last 3 years or complete the online training by 31st December. At the time of writing this report, of the 57 Group leaders registered at Central Office, 22 have not completed the training. We rely on our leaders to provide a walking programme and would encourage any leader who intends to continue leading to complete the appropriate training by the end of the year.

There have been changes to the committee during the year. John and Penny have stood down from the committee but John will continue to undertake the roles of Walks Co-ordinator and Webpage Editor. Thank you to Penny for her contribution to the committee and John for his continuing support of the group. Ian has taken on the additional role of Area Representative and welcome to Amanda who is taking over the role of Membership Secretary. Christine Davis and Christine Greene volunteered to organise the social events. The Committee needs further support, in particular a Group Secretary as I am standing down after 13 years in various roles.

During the year we ran a total of 117 walks: 51 long walks, 26 short walks, 24 shorter mid-week ‘social walks’, 7 sections of the London Countryway, 4 walks on the St Albans Way, 2 Train walks and 3 Gentle walks. Irene initiated the Gentle Walks for Hesitant Walkers of about an hour followed by a visit to a café. Details of walks are published on the website, WhatsApp Group ‘NLSH Walks’ and linked to a Group Facebook page. The WhatsApp ‘Walking Friends’ continues to be successful. The rolling walks programme is working well and the digital walks library which now contains over 230 ready-made routes is available to group members thanks to Peter.

We were able to hold a successful Christmas Lunch, Spring Dinner, Leader and Volunteer Lunch, Autumn Dinner as well as train walks to Eton & Windsor and Downe Village. The Group holidays to Snowdonia & Anglesey, Grazalema, Spain and Trough of Bowland were enjoyed by all who went. Three further holidays have been organised for next year, Sierra de las Nieves, Spain in March, Hassness in April and Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria in the Autumn. Thank you to Christine Davis and Christine Greene for their hard work organising the social events and Jean for organising the holidays.

We ended the year with 530 members.

A big thank you to all the leaders and volunteers who have supported the Group during the year.

We look forward to seeing you walking and at social events in 2026.

Lucy Welch, Secretary

