



**RAMBLERS**

**Cornwall**



***NEWSLETTER, JUL 25***

# ***CHAIR'S REPORT JUN 2025***

Welcome everyone to our Newsletter for Summer 2025!

As I am writing this, sat in my garden, we are currently experiencing a mini heatwave! We now have our glorious long days of Summer where we can enjoy walking in the early mornings and evenings. I hope the good weather lasts!

Last week I was camping in Lansallos, a beautiful place but, sadly, the weather was poor. One of the days after the morning downpour eased, I set off with Finn my dog, to walk to Polperro. The coastal path was heavily overgrown with brambles, hawthorn, and stinging nettles, making it difficult to find firm footing. At 3 miles in, drenched from the vegetation, I debated whether to turn back, cry, or persevere. Bravely, I continued to a warm welcome in Polperro!



All Groups and Area have had their AGMs since the last Area Newsletter.

The Area AGM took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2025, at Driftwood Spars, St Agnes. It was a well-attended AGM well organised by Cornwall South and West Group with a short walk to start, followed by time for lunch and a successful meeting. Thank you to all those who attended and made it such a good meeting. It is important to have these occasions when we can all get together and chat.

Lucy Armitage, Rambler's Trustee attended, and she congratulated us on a well-run meeting, she was moved by the silent contemplation for Bob Fraser (we all miss him so much), and our celebration of Mary Weston's amazing and ongoing dedication to the Ramblers (Mary, we THANK YOU). Lucy said she is returning home to share some of our good ideas. This is so wonderful to hear.

I must thank the Area committee for their support and work they do for Cornwall Ramblers. Cornwall Area is one of the Ramblers regional areas and our volunteers help to support, advise, coordinate and are the point of contact for our Groups. Groups have various activities which include organising group walks, inspecting and maintaining paths plus any local initiatives.

As volunteers, it is important to be kind, respectful, and supportive of those who generously dedicate their time on

behalf of Cornwall Ramblers. Such contributions should be acknowledged and appreciated. So ..... Thank you to all those who stepped forward to continue in their roles, to those who have taken on a new role and to all group committee members who are a much-needed part of Cornwall Ramblers. **THANK YOU EVERYONE!**

We are (or should I say I am) desperate to have a Vice Chair on the Committee. I have had a challenging time, personally, in the last year whilst filling and covering many roles within Cornwall Ramblers. This is not sustainable for me for the future. If you feel able to fill this role then please do contact me.

We also need an Assistant Webmaster mainly for Social Media, an Area Rights of Way Officer to help with all our important footpath work as well as people interested in Rights of Way, who are willing to be a footpath officer for some of our parishes.

### **WE NEED YOU!**

Please feel free to speak to me or any committee member to find out more.

In April it was Ramblers General Council AGM. Sadly, another year, we had no volunteers able to go. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet with other Ramblers, Trustees and Staff.

In June it was Royal Cornwall Show, and Cornwall Ramblers have organised a stand since 1977! Regretfully, it was decided



to not attend this year mainly due to my own personal reasons. Maybe next year we will be back!

I was invited to the opening of the King Charles III England Coast Path section from St Agnes to Cremyl. This took place at Porthoustock where we walked a short section from Porthoustock to Porthkerris, which now follows the Coast - prior to this it wound its way around narrow country lanes.

The event saw good attendance from representatives of the South West Coast Path, Natural England, Cornwall Council, National Trust, and Cormac.



As Acting Area Rights of Way Officer, with the help of our team of Footpath Rights of Way Officers, I am consulting with Cornwall Council and building a volunteer partnership with Cormac. We are busy with Definitive Map Modification Orders, evidence collecting for lost paths (thank you to Patrick Balcombe who stepped into the role of Coordinator for Lost Paths), path orders and more! We are also keen on path maintenance so the volunteer partnership with Cormac is

important for us to be a voice and to improve paths through our path maintenance teams.

Numerous walks have been listed on our webpage. Our monthly Coastal Walk is popular, with the coach usually fully booked each month. It is lovely to see such a wide variety of choice for all our members including walks over weekends like the Tamara Way. We must remember not everyone can do long walks so short, social walks are equally as important, and also those in-between!

I am currently reading *The Lost Paths* By Jack Cornish, who, at the time of writing the book, was Head of Paths at The Ramblers. He is now Director of England at The Ramblers. I can recommend as a wonderful history of the land beneath our feet.

Finally, I would like to thank all our members for supporting us, joining our walks and taking time out to read our newsletter.

ENJOY and CARRY ON WALKING!

*Anne Tryhorn*, Cornwall Ramblers Area Chair

## ***DATES FOR YOUR DIARY***

**Area Council:** (The meetings will be on Zoom)

Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> Jul 2025 4pm      Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 2025 4pm

**CRAG:** (The meetings will be on Zoom)

Tues 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025 10am      Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 2025 10am

# CORNWALL AREA OFFICERS

The following Area Officers were elected at the Area AGM in January 2025:

Chair	Anne Tryhorn
Secretary	Paul Rabbeth
Treasurer	Julia Chant
Minute Secretary	Fiona Thomson
Rights of Way Officer (planning)	John Lumsden
Membership Secretary	Paul Rabbeth
Webmaster	Simon Cole
Outreach Officer	Mary Weston
Walks Sec and Newsletter Editor	Geoff Marshall
Safeguarding Officer	Carol Craze
Coastal Walk coordinators	John Skinner and Julie Tombs
Don't Lose Your Way Coordinator	Patrick Balcombe

The following posts of Vice Chair, Rights of Way Officer and Publicity Officer are currently vacant. Anne Tryhorn is filling the role of RoW officer on a temporary basis.

**We urgently need a Vice Chair and Rights of Way Officer to take some of the workload off Anne.**



## The Ramblers values

Our values are the core principles that guide us daily in our work and our membership of the Ramblers. We all share the passion that walking is for everyone and by living our shared values we can ensure The Ramblers is an organisation to be proud of. Our values will earn trust for The Ramblers brand which will allow us to open up a world of walking opportunities for even more people.

**Inclusive** – We make everyone feel welcome and part of the Ramblers community. We make sure we all feel respected and accepted and know our contributions make a difference in achieving our mission.

**Inspiring** – We strive to inspire people through the way we act and the things we say. We channel our passion and ambition so others are moved to help us achieve our mission.

**Empowering** – We empower and encourage each other to make a positive contribution to our teams and the Ramblers. We do all we can to make sure everyone has the ability, and feels confident, to take action.

**Responsible** – We take responsibility for ourselves and those around us seriously, by always acting in a safe and supportive way. We care about the environment and make sure we do what we say we will do.



# ***MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT***

Cornwall Ramblers currently have 817 members and 3 affiliates and as the walkers charity we aim to keep Rights of Way open and unobstructed.

Lots of our members are volunteers and help that charitable aim. Any offer of help is welcome.

When people join, they get a welcome and are introduced to our website. If they have any queries they can raise them with me. New members can also join one of the groups that make up Cornwall Ramblers.

One of the ways that members can help keep rights of way open is by using them and walking them.

They can be walked either by yourselves or by joining walks led by our walk leaders and you can find details of such walks on our website. Walk Leaders will have provided links so that you can contact them to join their walks.

If you have any membership queries feel free to contact me.

*Paul Rabbeth* Area Secretary and Membership Secretary

[paulqrabbeth@gmail.com](mailto:paulqrabbeth@gmail.com) 07770 794628.

# **COASTAL RAMBLERS NEWS**

The Coastal walk is held on the first Saturday of the month, completing a section of the Cornish coast, mainly around 8 miles, sometimes more, sometimes less.

A coach picks us up from the place we will finish the walk and takes us to where we finished the previous month's walk. Unfortunately, the current coach company we use has decided no dogs. We do accept dogs on the walk, but transport needs to be arranged. We are planning to look at other coach operators, but hire costs will be a factor.

Needless to say, the scenery is breathtaking, but it can be hard walking, so only come if you think you're physically able to complete the walk. It's a lovely atmosphere and it brings together walkers from around Cornwall. Could I thank all the walkers who take part and make the coastal walks so special and especially those who have supported the walk over the years and kept it going.

We swapped directions last year and are now walking up the South Coast, towards Cremyll. We are currently on the Lizard peninsula, having just completed two strenuous 11 mile sections, this month (June) we finished at Porthoustock. As walkers will know the Lizard is well known for its Serpentine rock, but it can be extremely slippery, especially if it is wet - luckily we had several dry days, so it wasn't too bad. However I did notice that on the last walk what appeared to be trainers were been worn, please wear suitable walking footwear. I always wear walking boots for the extra support that is given to your ankles.

The next sections are: July - Porthoustock to Helford and August - Helford Passage to Falmouth. We then move across to the Roseland, for a circular walk with no coach.

Thanks again to all the walkers who support the coastal walks and see you in July.

*John Skinner*, Joint Coastal Walks Secretary

## **NEWS FROM CAMEL GROUP**

What a spring we've had, hope you've all enjoyed it. Our walk leaders have been keeping our Walk Secretary Mary busy organising the walks and doing the website stuff. Much thanks, Mary, for all the work you do and for the summary below.

*"A massive thank you goes to all our walk leaders who have organised and led walks so far this year, and everyone who is planning to lead walks for our group in the coming months.*

*We have had a lovely selection of walks covering a large area of Cornwall – from Bude down to St Agnes and many other places in between.*

*Hilda led us to St Mabyn and Helland Bridge.*

*Jill led the Three Saints Way in North Cornwall covering three of Cornwall's least well-known mediaeval churches at Tremaine, Treneglos and Tresmeer.*

*James has covered the coast from Crantock to St Agnes and in between.*

*Cathy organised a Two Churches Walk covering St Tudy and St Mabyn, and hopes to continue this theme.*

*Paula has organised walks from Cardinham which included the remains of a large Iron Age Fort at Bury Castle and Cardinham Church and the Luxulyan Valley, where we walked over the massive viaduct.*

*We have had bluebell walks round Wadebridge and Poppies in Crantock thanks to Steve, plus a new walk in Lanivet with beautiful countryside views.*

*Lastly, but not least, thank you to Brian who has led regular walks covering many areas from the south coast to the north coast and in between, while organising map reading courses for members.*

*Our walks nearly always end with a chat in a pub with a pint or a cafe with cake, and some have ended with a meal together.*

*Keep an eye on our Facebook page and the Ramblers website for details of our walks. These are just some of the walks we have had this year so if you like the sound of them, do join us. If you fancy leading a walk you will be made very welcome to join our band of walk leaders. Please get in touch.*



*Finally a date for your diary – the Camel Group will be having their Christmas Dinner at the St Mabyn Inn on Saturday December 6 this year.”*

Thank you Mary - and while you've all got your diaries open two more dates to note - our AGM is Saturday Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 2025 and the Cornwall Area AGM is Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2026, both in Lanivet Community Centre.

As Camel group are hosts for the Area AGM we thought it would be a good idea to trial the venue and facilities. Some of you may know it; it's conveniently placed just off the A30 with its own car park and adjoining café. We'll send more information closer to the time but do please come along and support your own group and our Area of the Ramblers.

Rights of Way work continues of course and earlier this year Tom and I volunteered to be rights of way officers, we've each got a copy of 'the blue book'! We look at planning applications and how they might affect footpaths and make comments which are sent to Jon to put on the Cornwall Council website as the Ramblers are consultees. RoW have quarterly zoom meetings. Tom and I have found it quite a lot more interesting that it may sound.

We also try to help with path problems. For instance Abigail in Polzeath got in touch "You very kindly helped us with researching some maps in Polzeath recently due to a path closure plus provided some excellent advice about the perils of 'cul de sac' paths. I'm so pleased to let you know that after just two months of huge pressure on the developers (media, petition, MP, Parish Council, plus lawyers - unfortunately for our budget), they opened up the path again yesterday!!! In addition, the Parish Council has committed themselves to working with Cornwall Council to get the path formally

recognised on the Definitive Map as a Public Right of way. Hooray. I just wanted to say thank you again.” So that’s nice.

A very good example of a path everyone thinks is a path but it isn’t because it’s not on the definite map, as highlighted by the Ramblers Don’t Lose Your Way Project.

Well that’s all for now. Thank you all for your support in whatever form. Put those dates in the diary. And hope to see you soon.

*Hilda Blacklaw*, Camel Chair

## ***UPDATE FROM CARADON***

Our first half of 2025 has included some lovely and varied walks in areas like St Cleer and Minions, Kilminorth Woods, Ivybridge to Harford and the River Plym Estuary but also further afield like Truro, Mevagissey or the North Cornwall coast.

The walks vary in length from 4 miles to 13 miles usually and often take place on a Sunday but sometimes we also hold weekday walks. They are always detailed on the Ramblers app.

We also did a map reading course in March led by Brian of Camel Group and also had a social evening in Pensilva with games and food/drink.



Below are a couple of photos of walks we have done since December 2024.

A walk around Looe and Kilminorth Woods in January.



A walk around Turnchapel, Hooe, Oreston and Jennycliff in March



Caradon, along with Cornwall South and West, have organised a group of Ramblers to lead the Tamara Way this year and Julie Tombs from Caradon led the group on the first three days in May from Cremyll to Gunnislake in superb weather. Many were from Cornwall Ramblers but there were also quite a few from Devon and further afield. We are looking forward to the next three days in June to be led by Rob Norman from Cornwall South and West from Gunnislake to Marhamchurch.

The Caradon Ramblers are also organising a walk on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September led by a member of the Rame Conservation Trust, who is working with the Pigs Hill & Clarrick Woods Community Trust to develop walking routes around the woodland and historic sites at Maker Heights. The walk will include forest tracks and paths, with the opportunity to visit inside one of the normally locked historic fortifications ("Redoubts") steeped in history.

It will be an informative walk and open to anyone that is interested in learning a little more about the history of the Mount Edgecumbe estate and its past naval/wartime connections. Check the website for further information.

*Julie Tombs*, Caradon Group Secretary

## **HAPPENINGS IN CORNWALL SOUTH & WEST**

Moderate weather meant that most of us enjoyed many good walking days over the winter and this spring has been glorious (even if it's raining as I write!).

I have just returned from walking Offa's Dyke along the Welsh border. Seven of our members enjoyed 7 days walking, on cool mornings and lovely cloud free afternoons. It was idyllic.

I am pleased to report that this winter/spring our path clearing activities kicked into high gear after several years of Covid related inactivity. Anne Tryhorn has established a good working relationship with the paths team at Cormac and Kevin Gibson volunteered to lead our path maintenance activities; taking over coordination from Ronnie George and Dougie Johns, who both continue to help clear our paths. Thanks Kev you have been doing a brilliant job (alongside our other fantastic volunteers). If you want to help keep our paths clear, please talk to Kevin or Ronnie George.

During these past few months, I have been coordinating several tasks that were discussed at the December AGM.

1. We have booked a stall at Stithians showground on July 14th. This will help promote our positive role in the local community. Ronnie George is looking for volunteers to man the stall.

2. In May, June and July, twentyfive Ramblers from all round Cornwall (and Devon) are walking the 8-day Tamara trail in three sections. Coaches will be laid on and meals have been booked for the evenings. It promises to be a fun series of short walking holidays.

3. We are using JustGiving to raise money for construction of a bench to remember Bob Fraser who sadly passed last year. Bob's activities had a massive impact on keeping our rights of way open both locally and throughout Cornwall. Everyone who loves walking in Cornwall and every member of our group has

benefitted from his work. The estimated cost of the bench plus installation by volunteers is £800. Donations can be made at [https://www.justgiving.com/page/bench4bf?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL&utm\\_campaign=015](https://www.justgiving.com/page/bench4bf?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=015)

There have been significant changes to our committee over the past months. Thank you Jo Lewinski, for being such a great Group Secretary and to Martin Smith who has taken over the role.

Stacia Smales Hill stepped down as Treasurer at the AGM (thank you Stacia for bringing order to the disorder of our accounts) to be replaced by Sue Rolls who once told me she enjoyed working with spreadsheets 😊.

A grateful thanks to Pauline Turner who stepped down as Membership Secretary. We are lucky that Jackie Hodge so quickly and ably stepped into this role, while continuing to manage the weekly walk leader's newspaper reports.

Thanks to Dougie Johns who agreed to take over part of the ROW duties left vacant by Bobs passing.

Thank you to everyone else on the committee who have remained in place, our group could not function without you. We still lack a Media Officer who can help us move into the modern era of websites and social media.

Harking back to earlier forms of media we also need a volunteer to help update our range of walks guidebooks, which can be sold at a profit! If you think you can help us manage either of these roles please contact Liam.

Spring is my favourite time of year in Cornwall. I hope you have been enjoying its as much as I have. See you out there.

*Liam Reinhardt*, Chair Cornwall South and West

## WALKS BOOKS

Ten Walks around Falmouth (3km/2miles to 11km/7miles): £3.95 (prices include p&p.)

Ten Rambles in the Roseland (4km/2.5miles to 13km/8miles): £3.95

Ten Walks around Truro (6.5km/4miles to 11km/7miles): £3.95

Nine Walks on individual cards starting from stations on the Truro/Falmouth branch line: £2.95

Walks around Shortlanesend: £2.95

Five Walks Around Wendron: (3.25 miles to 8½ miles) A Glossy booklet packed with farming and mining history, colour maps & photos £3.00

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.

Available from Jackie Hodge - 07817 850288  
jackie.portreath@gmail.com

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