

**Ramblers Association Scotland
Glasgow Group**

Our Annual Report

2024-25



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Introduction

Glasgow Ramblers is a friendly walking group for people of all ages who enjoy walking in the countryside or the city.

We are part of the Ramblers' Association, a charity and representative body which campaigns for access to the outdoors and creates walking opportunities for all.



At the end of September 2025 we had 375 members and 16 active walk leaders who put on 65 different walks over the year.

The Glasgow Ramblers Annual Report, prepared by the group's committee members, summarises our key activities and achievements over the year from the start of October 2024 to the end of September 2025.

You can find out more about Glasgow Ramblers and our walks on our [website](#).

Who we are

The Glasgow Ramblers' committee is a group of members who are elected to co-ordinate Ramblers' activities in our area.

At the 2024 AGM Yvonne Flynn was elected as our chair. Our Secretary for 2024/25 was Sandra West and our Treasurer was Barry Pottle.

Other committee members who served in 2024/25 are: Helen Sweeting (Minutes Secretary), Frances Arthur (Membership Secretary), Geoff Der (Web Controller), Terry Cassidy (Walk Programme Co-ordinator), Gareth Morgan and Marjory Anderson.

We had no Access and Countryside Officer after Jim Riddell stepped down. You can read more about committee business in 'Our Committee and Membership' section on page 5 of this report.

Walks and events

Our walk programme

It was another good year for Glasgow Ramblers' walks. A total of 65 walks took place with a good variety of shorter easy rambles and some more challenging climbs including up Ben Vrackie and the Cobbler.

Our average walk length was 13km (8 miles) with the range being 5 to 21km (3 to 13 miles) and half of the walks were between 10 and 16km (6 to 10 miles). Just over half of the walks were linear and the rest circular walks. Over half of the walks (55%) had a full quota of walkers. You can see a breakdown of walks by grade and day of week in Appendix 1.



The walks programme was due to contributions from both our new walk leaders as well as our longer serving members.

Navid Faroutan led some of our most challenging walks in his first year as a leader while Ian Brooke, who has been leading for more years than he cares to remember, finished the last leg of the 106-mile Ayrshire Coastal Path in September. The completion of this long-distance walk was celebrated with a toast on the Ballantrae shoreline.

Thanks to all our 16 active walk leaders for their time and efforts. It is much appreciated.

With more than 375 members in the group, and many non-members regularly requesting to join our walks, we are aiming to increase that number over the next year. We look forward to more of our members coming forward to lead a walk in 2025-26.

Our social events

Our walks are always accompanied by a chance for members to socialise. But in addition to our regular walks, there were three bigger social events in our calendar over the year. These included a Christmas lunch in Milngavie, a darts and lunch outing in Glasgow, and a summer lunch in Ayrshire. A special thanks goes to Pauline Werninck for organising them.



Our 2024 AGM

Our first in-person AGM since 2019 attracted 33 members to the Pearce Institute in Govan which was more than double the previous year's online turnout. Guest speaker Karen Murdarasi, editor of a new edition of Hugh MacDonald's Rambles Round Glasgow, gave an engaging talk on MacDonald's life, rambles, and her work to make the Victorian classic accessible for modern readers.

Afterwards, members split into two groups for an enjoyable circular walk that included crossing the newly opened Govan–Partick Bridge, setting off in opposite directions through Glasgow's West End before returning to Govan.

First Aid course

A dozen Glasgow Ramblers brushed up on their First Aid skills with a full day of training run by the British Association of Ski Patrollers.

The course, held at the West of Scotland Cricket Club in Partick on Sunday, September 14, was very practical and covered everything from dealing with cuts, grazes, strains and sprains to administering Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and handling medical emergencies in remote places.

The training was specifically tailored to the outdoor and walking environment. All 12 participants successfully completed the course but hope they will never have to use their learning on a walk.

The costs of hosting the course at the Cricket Club were met in part with a contribution from the Walking Partnership Fund. This is the fund made up of the donations Glasgow Ramblers receives each time one of our members books a holiday with Ramblers Worldwide. We had £360 of donations over the year 2024-25.

We will be looking for how best to use any future money we receive through the Walking Partnership Fund. If you have an idea email info@glasgowramblers.org.uk.



Supporting national events

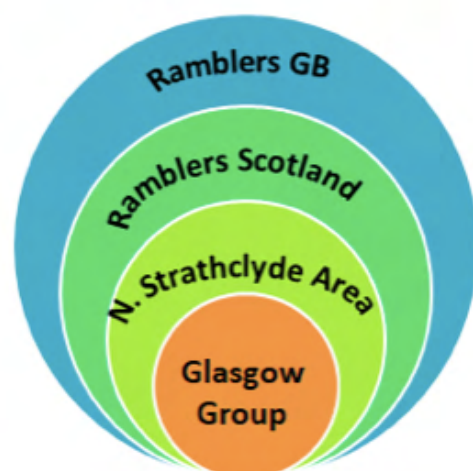
Glasgow Group is part of Ramblers Strathclyde Area which is part of Ramblers Scotland which, in turn, is part of Ramblers GB.

We contributed at both Area and national level during the year. Committee members represent our Group at the North Strathclyde Area Council and one is Area Secretary.

Nationally, Glasgow was host to Ramblers Scotland's 37th Council (AGM) on Saturday, 16 March. Several of our members helped ensure all aspects of the meeting, held at the Merchants House in George Square, went smoothly.

Four of our committee members also organised and led short walks showcasing different aspects of the city for visiting Ramblers who came from all over Scotland. These walks were in addition to the 65 walks on our programme.

The annual Scottish Ramblers Gathering, a long weekend of walks and socialising, took place in Rhu between April 25 and 28, with a Glasgow Group member leading one of the walks.



Communications and engagement

Communications survey

The Committee carried out a review of our communications by asking members for their views in a short survey.

The questionnaire was aimed at exploring how we could improve the ways we engaged with our members.

There were 24 responses to the survey with a majority saying they found the website and the monthly newsletter useful and engaging.

Key findings included:

- Most respondents said they used the website (87.5%) to get information about walks and events followed by the monthly newsletter (83.3%) and emails (62.5%)
- 25% of respondents thought the monthly newsletter was excellent while another 58.8% said it was interesting and useful.
- 87% said the website was very or pretty useful. Only two respondents said they either never went on the website or didn't find it at all useful.
- Facebook and the Ramblers 'App were the least popular channels among respondents to the survey
- 42% said they only 'sometimes' read the after-walk blogs while 25% said they always read them.

The Committee is using the feedback to inform how they communicate with members.

Newsletters

We issued 11 newsletters to our members by email, updating them on past and future walks, events, training and news. For the majority of the year these were published monthly, however over summer we changed to bi monthly.

Given the positive feedback in the Communications Survey about the newsletter, the Committee plans to continue using the newsletter as a main communications channel.

Facebook

Our Facebook page had over 1.4k followers in September 2025. We posted news and photos throughout the year about our walks. It remains a good chan-



nel for engaging with people interested in our walks and activities but who are not members or regular walkers.

Website

The website continued to be used as a source of information on walks by our members while the Magnificent 11 page and blogs were also frequently accessed. Most visits (66%) come directly to the site, 30% come via search engines, mainly Google, and 3% from links from other web sites, including Glasgow council and Facebook.

As more and more people are using mobile phones to view the website, we are gradually adapting the content to make it more suited to smaller screens.

We've added information on what to do when walks are full and added a listing of walks by other local groups.

We have also helped Cunninghame Ramblers group set up their website using ours as a model.

Our wider work

The Magnificent 11

Glasgow Ramblers continued to support the Magnificent 11, the four-part circular route on Glasgow's Southside which launched in 2022.



Some of our shorter walks took in sections of the path through the year. We then marked the third anniversary of its launch by doing the route backwards on Saturday July 5. It's a well-trodden path for many Glasgow Ramblers but, in reverse, it offered a new perspective and more than a few navigational challenges. We will continue to plan walks along the route reporting any issues with access to Glasgow City Council outdoor rangers.

Outdoor access and the countryside

We were in contact with Glasgow City Council's Outdoor Access Officer throughout the year. The council is in the process of reinstating the Local Access Forum (LAF) and plans to invite Glasgow Ramblers to join the forum once it is in place.

In the meantime any access issues we identify around access on our walks in Glasgow should go directly to the Outdoor Access Officer.

Glasgow Ramblers did not have a Countryside and Access Officer during the year 2024-25 so the Chair and the Secretary dealt with all correspondence on this.

Membership and our Committee

Membership

At the end of September 2025 we had 375 active members, up slightly on the previous year. In our last Annual Report we recorded that at the end of September 2024, the Group's active membership was 373, up from 323 on the previous year. Active means members who are fully paid up as Glasgow Group members.

Our committee

There were six Committee Meetings in the year, all taking place online through Zoom.

These were held in October 2024 and January, March, May, July and September 2025. Thanks to everyone who is part of the Committee for their continued advice and support.

At the 2024 AGM Yvonne Flynn was elected as Chair. Yvonne has chaired each of the committee meetings. Sandra West was elected as Secretary and Barry Pottle as Treasurer. Other officers are detailed in Appendix 2.

Also at the AGM Gareth Morgan was elected to be our Group Representative on the North Strathclyde Area Council together with Barry Pottle who has also served as Area Secretary. Later in the year Yvonne Flynn became a third Glasgow representative on the Area Council.

We are looking for members to join the Glasgow Ramblers Committee. We would welcome anyone who could help us run our group.

Keep in touch

website – www.glasgowramblers.org.uk

email – info@glasgowramblers.org.uk

facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/glasgowramblers.public>

Appendix 1

Walks by grade and day of week for 2024/25

Grade		Day	
Easy Access		Monday	
Easy	4	Tuesday	
Leisurely	25	Wednesday	5
Moderate	34	Thursday	12
Strenuous	2	Friday	3
Technical		Saturday	37
		Sunday	8
Grand Total	65	Grand Total	65

Appendix 2

Committee members and roles

The election of the honorary office bearers at the 2024 AGM

Chair	Yvonne Flynn
Treasurer	Barry Pottle
Secretary	Sandra West

Other officers elected at the 2024 AGM

Access and Countryside Officer	
Membership Secretary	Frances Arthur
Minutes Secretary	Helen Sweeting
Programme Coordinator	Terry Cassidy
Web Controller	Geoff Der
Committee Members	Gareth Morgan, Marjory Anderson