September/October 2026 Newsletter



The Precipice Walk with Llyn Cynwch on SCR's Dolgellau Autumn Break.

In North Wales, where ancient mountains rise,
A land of legends beneath the azure skies,
Where emerald valleys kiss the oceans's blue,
And history whispers tales both old and new.

The craggy peaks of Snowdonia stands tall and proud,
Guardians of secrets in their silent shroud,
From Anglesey's isle of to Conwy's keep,
Where rolling hills and misty waters sleep.

Unknown

Chairperson's Report

Autumn is well-underway with vibrant displays of foliage thanks to the effect of the extremely hot summer. The fine weather has continued for our September and October walks, providing clear, fine views of lovely countryside.

Autumn weekend break The holiday to Dolgellau, staying at the HF Dolserau Hall, was a great success with a variety of walks offered each day plus lively evening entertainment, showcasing our members' many and varied talents! Thank you to Rosie and Tony for organising the holiday and to walk leaders and entertainers (see separate report).

Walks Programme We have had a mostly full programme of Sunday and Thursday walks despite having a reduced pool of walk leaders. Sunday walks have included Ynyr's Hill Ridware walk, followed part of the Staffordshire Way, avoiding poorly-maintained stiles; Rosie and Tony's Alstonefield walk in the Peak District with stunning views and Barbara's Kenilworth walk where we were joined by Janet Gee, a Ramblers' Trustee. We returned to Warwickshire for Ynyr's Fillongley walk with an excellent turnout of 30 members and guests: perhaps our last opportunity to enjoy a sunny pub garden for our lunch stop. Unfortunately, Andy's Badby walk had to be postponed owing to high winds over a stormy weekend. It is hoped we can explore that 'new' area in the future. Thursday walks in Warwickshire included Richard's walk from Dosthill, through a watery landscape; Ynyr's walk from Curdworth; Barbara & John's walk from Hoar Park along the Centenary Way, and in Staffordshire, Ynyr's walk from Longdon Green, incorporating a section of the Trent & Mersey Canal, attracted a good number of walkers. Thanks to all our leaders and to members who supported and enjoyed the walks.

Social activities Our Christmas walk and meal, organised by Rosie and Tony, is on Sunday 6th December with walks in the Ludlow area followed by lunch at the Fishmore Hall Hotel. Currently there are 45 people booked with a just a few places left. We have a spring break, proposed by Mike F, at the South Lawn Hotel near Lymington and an autumn long-weekend, organised by Julie S, staying at the HF Thorns Hall, Sedbergh. Thank you to both for planning these holidays. Our Mince Pie walk is on Sunday 20th December with a choice of two walks in Sutton Park, both groups meeting at the Jamboree Stone around 11am for complimentary mince pies. Non-walkers are most welcome to join us!

AGM You have had formal notice of our AGM to be held on Wednesday 18th November at 7.30pm at Four Oaks Saints' Cricket Club, Clarence Road B74 4LS, followed by a buffet supper. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend, supporting your committee and enjoying the evening.

Warwickshire Area AGM As you are aware, we are hosting the Area AGM on Saturday 27th February 2027 at Sutton Coldfield United Reformed Church (next to Gracechurch Shopping Centre). This is a considerable undertaking as approximately 100 members will attend. In the New Year, we will be recruiting volunteers to assist with: marshalling to the venue; welcoming at the church; registration of attendees; serving refreshments on arrival and leading two short walks in Sutton Park after lunch. Please put the date in your diary and consider whether you will be able to help on the day.

Publicity As well as Ramblers' publicity posters placed in public buildings around Sutton, we have a Facebook page with 1,100 followers. To further increase awareness of our group, Ynyr has arranged for us to have a stand on Sutton Parade on Saturday 28th November with publicity materials provided by Ramblers' Central Office. If you're shopping in Sutton on that day, come along and say 'hello' – you may be rewarded with a Ramblers' pen and sticker!

Looking forward to seeing you on walks and at future events.

With best wishes to all,
Barbara

SCR AGM November 18th

Formal notice has been given for the SCR AGM to be held on November 18th at 7.30pm at Four Oaks Saints' Cricket Club, Clarence Road B74 4LS. All SCR members are invited to attend - it is good opportunity to find out how members can support the group and contribute to its continuing success. Following the meeting there will be a buffet and the opportunity for members to socialise.

Papers for the AGM were sent by email on October 5th with details of the nomination process for positions on the SCR Committee. These can also be accessed through this link Notice of AGM 2026 pdf

If you want to find out more about the Committee positions speak with one of the current Committee members or contact rosiempower@gmail.com

New Members

A warm welcome to our new members; Dave Douglas, Eve Robson and Mick Sadler.

Walk Programme 2026

A variety of walks in September and October……making the most of the good weather.





The first Thursday walk in September, a tranquil route from Dosthill.





A route through the countryside around the villages of Curdworth and Wishaw and the wildlife trails through the “Amazon Nature Reserve”.



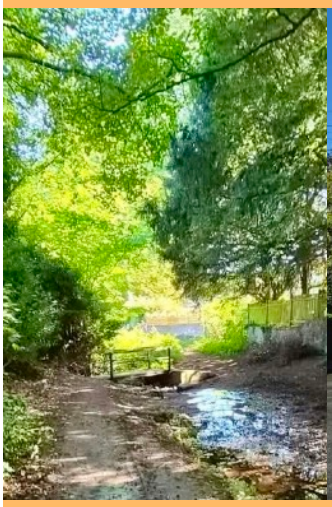




The first Sunday walk in September, a route of around 7.5 miles starting from Hill Ridware and finishing with refreshments at the Chadwick Arms.




A great day out in the wonderful Derbyshire Dales. Starting from Alstonefield the route included Wolfscotedale, Milldale and Stanhope.





Wonderful walking weather for the Longdon Green walk - a varied route finishing back at the Red Lion for refreshments in their sunny garden.




Another sunny day for the walk from Kenilworth Castle - a route through pleasant woodland and open countryside.



A walk from the Hoar Park Farm Craft Centre using the Centenary Way to the village of Birchley Heath for a coffee stop, and returning through Bentley Park Wood.



A large group of ramblers and guests enjoyed a sunny day walking from Fillongley. The route followed the Heart of England Way towards Birchley Hays Wood then onto the Coventry Way. Back in Fillongley refreshments were had at the Manor House pub.

Check out more pictures and walk details on facebook.com/suttoncoldfieldramblers and on the website suttoncoldfieldramblers.org.uk - click on *Walks and Walking.*

Future Walks
Details of future walks can be found on the website. Currently there are dates to be filled over the next couple of months for both Thursdays and Sundays. Sunday walks can be long or short, and both distances could be offered on the same day. If you are interested in offering a walk please contact Ynyr.

ynyr.owen@hotmail.co.uk

Checking for Walk Updates
Occasionally changes to walks have to be made at short notice; this year we have had cancellations/changes to walks due to snow, heat, overgrown vegetation and high winds! We would hope to be able to update the website and send an email out. Therefore please regularly check both the website and your mailbox for any updates.

Check the Weather Outlook bbc.co.uk/weather/outlook

Car Sharing
Ramblers are encouraged where possible to car share to the walk start. Car sharing is appreciated by many members and it allows us to reduce the impact of the number of cars taken to starting locations.

Please text the walk leader if you plan to go directly to the walk start.

Note the change of meeting place at Wyndley. This is now Wyndley Lane - this runs between Wyndley Pool and the swimming baths - unless otherwise stated.

Christmas Walks
This year's Christmas coach walks and lunch will be on December 6th with a return to the charming town of Ludlow. This is almost full and if you have not booked but wish to join please contact Rosie to check on remaining places. The cost for lunch and the coach is £40.

Note the meeting place for the coach will be St. James' Church Centre car park, Mere Green - we have used this when the Sutton Fun Run takes place.

The annual Mince Pie walk will be on Sunday 20th December with a choice of two walks in Sutton Park.

Dolgellau Autumn Break

Thirty-four SCR members enjoyed a long-weekend break to Dolgellau staying at the HF House - Dolserau Hall - set in the Eryri National Park.



The Walks

Saturday was bright and sunny with a choice of three walks on offer. Chris and Jenny led a 6 mile linear walk from Penmaenpool to Morfa Mawddach along the estuary. From here the group took the train to Barmouth, then the bus back to Penmaenpool. En-route the group witnessed the recovery of an injured cyclist by the Air Ambulance.

Mike F led a circular 7 mile walk starting from the Hall. This included a climb up the very picturesque Torrent Falls - there were lots of opportunities to stop and admire the views and for everyone to catch their breath! The route continued on minor roads and tracks alongside many small streams that run off Cadair Idris - the sound of of bubbling water was never far away. The group crossed over the River Wnion into Dolgellau and enjoyed some time exploring the town before returning to the Hall via quiet (if fairly steep in places) minor roads.

The third walk was led by John C, a circular 8 mile walk again directly from the Hall. The walk followed the the Afon Wnion Valley before climbing up past Ty-Newydd Uchaf, then descending to Brithdir and then ascending again to reach the head of the valley. The group were met by some very overgrown and not well-walked paths including a particularly impenetrable area of thicket - guidance from a farmer was sought! The group descended along the magnificent Torrent Walk to return to the Hall.

The forecast for Sunday was wet and windy - some Ramblers headed into Barmouth to walk across the Barmouth Viaduct and look around the town. However two amended walks taking account of the weather were on offer. John H led a 6 mile circular walk from the Hall heading to Coed Dolgwartheg. After visiting St Mark's Church in Brithdir (a wonderful Arts and Crafts Church in the care of *the Friends of Friendless Churches)* the group followed the NE edge of the Torrent Walk back to the Hall. Tony's walk of 6.2 miles was badged as the "New Precipice Walk". Starting from Llanelltyd Tony's route climbed up the slopes of Foel Ispri and then descended to cross the toll bridge to Penmaenpool, and used the Mawddachh Trail to return to the car park. The sun returned on Monday and a small informal group enjoyed the traditional Precipice Walk with Tony before heading home.



Evening Activities

Our evening entrainment started on Friday with a showing of the 2008 BBC TV *Railway Walk with Julia Bradbury* - where she walks from Dolgellau to Barmouth along the Mawddach Estuary. The following evening Tony put on an interesting quiz.

For Sunday there was light-hearted evening of entertainment provided by members with a variety of poems and sketches. John Collins, Chris Mitton, Mike Fowler and Tom Halstead read a pastiche of Flanders and Swan's "London Omnibus" song written by Chris entitled "Birmingham HS2". A variety of poems were read, including Rosie's amusing poem about the baby who drained down the plug-hole. Jenny Mitton read a poem by Pam Ayres about losing one's glasses, something we can all relate to as age

progresses! Mike Fowler's enjoyable poem required audience participation, and Margaret Delaney read about the plight of a polar bear family after the tragic Titanic event, Have You Any News of the Iceberg, by Les Barker. Pat Collins read from Brian Bilston's thought-provoking anthology Days Like These, on the theme of foods, and Di Halstead read her poem of choice. Then John, Chris, Mike and Tom recreated Peter Cook, Alan Bennett, Dudley Moore respectively, for Jonathan Miller's 1963 Beyond the Fringe sketch "Commentary on America".

The recently refurbished Dolserau Hall was very welcoming, and made an excellent base for the group's Autumn Break. Thank you to Rosie and Tony for arranging the weekend, and to all the walk organisers and contributors to the evening entertainment.

Sharon F/Sue W

An Island Adventure

A Walk Along the Paseo Maritimo, Costa Teguise, Lanzarote - September '26
John Twort

My first visit to a Canary Island, in the company of two Canary Islands "veterans" - Barbara and Hannah who often go there whilst I am on a Camino. I was immediately struck by the volcanic nature of the place and despite its apparent aridity, I began to appreciate the ecological achievements of Lanzarote.

The walk along the paseo was easily accessed through a gateway from Complejo Playa Roca, a development of bungalows where we stayed for our eleven day break. An immediate view of the ocean greeted you, usually shimmering in the morning sunlight. Turning left towards the town of Costa Teguise, the paseo, divided between pedestrian and cycleways, made for excellent underfoot conditions. A naturally rocky coast line, interspersed with three contrasting beaches.

The most common trees were palms and most typical plants were cacti. Small gardens, hotel fronts and green areas were always watered by hosepipes buried just below a surface of volcanic gravel. There was room too for ingenuity with occasional bushes as we would describe them, a favourite showing a vivid red flower.

Playa Bastian, overlooked by an ancient watchtower, was the first "beach" and although it was well kept and traditionally designed with wind shelters made of lava stones, it had only a small pebble free access to the water. Close by was the Los Amigos cafe bar….very peaceful and with its own air of authenticity.

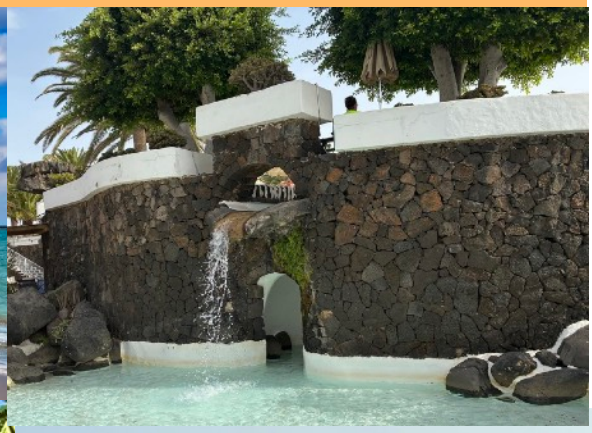
Walking on, there was a small headland behind which was the Alexandra Teguise Playa Hotel - an enormous place fenced in its own grounds, widespread but not too many storeys.

In contrast, there had been a windmill erected to recall the ancient use of salt pans along this stretch, which was just before the second beach, Playa del Jablillo. This well sheltered, small cove became Hannah's beach of choice. She enjoyed watching the daily aqua class of enthusiastic locals.

Rounding the rocky and breezy headland brought us to Playa de Los Cucharas which was a complete and attractive contrast, with another widespread hotel at its end.

The town's main beach and its esplanade made for a delightful, final phase of the walk. The sand was golden and all its environs were spotless. What made it even more rewarding were the grounds of the bars, restaurants and hotels which the paseo bisected. We were both charmed and impressed with the variety and ingenuity on display.

Our saunter ended outside the grounds of the Paradisus Salinas - an adults only hotel, obviously the more "upmarket" end of town. Walking back we needed coffee and a cold drink. The Beach Bar, up two short flights of steps, was a gem of a place to relax before heading back, via the town this time. The distance approximately 8 km.




Do You Remember Your First Ramblers Walk?

Marking SCR's 35 years of walking it would be interesting to hear what people remember about their first walk with the group. If you would like to share your memories for inclusion in the next SCR Newsletter please send to Sharon Freedman via the Contacts tab on the website by December 18th.

Here are a couple of recollections from Barbara, Rob, Rosie and Sharon.

My first walk with SCR, about ten years ago, was led by Colin and Christine Little. On a lovely day we started in Leamington Spa, following a scenic route which included the River Leam, the Grand Union Canal, Warwick Castle and Victoria Park. We had refreshments in the elegant surroundings of the Royal Pump Rooms. Everyone was friendly and welcoming. I remember thinking: This is for me….. ***Barbara T***

I can't be sure but I think my first walk with the Ramblers, years ago, was a coach trip to Derbyshire…..Mam Tor. Lovely weather setting out; on the way up clouds gathered. Then came the rain. It seemed not to be coming from up in the sky but from straight ahead - horizontal, literally and lots of it. Unfortunately I had forgotten to pack my waterproof trousers which meant I was absolutely soaked. Fortunately the Outdoor Shop was open, and not wanting to sit in wet clothes on the coach, I invested in a new dry pair of walking trousers - £60 - which seemed incredibly expensive at the time. Saved. I could sit on the coach and be dry……except that I'd forgotten about the soaked underpants! No sooner had I put the new, dry, trousers on, than the imprint of the soaked underpants shone through. So, I sat in the wet on the coach anyway (note to self - pack spare underpants in a waterproof plastic bag). Still it was a good walk and it didn't put me off for future walks. ***Rob H***

On my first ramble I had a lift in Clive's van, where I met Dominic whose first ramble it was too. He spent most of the time telling bad jokes, which I found was his wont! I have no idea what the walk was though, but he kept me entertained. ***Rosie***

As a member from another Ramblers group I joined SCR's Birmingham Greenway Walks, held over three consecutive Sundays in early 2019 - walking from Sutton Park to Cofton Park. I remember that the weather was surprisingly good for January, sunshine makes everything look better and that even an urban route that appears straightforward can have tricky unmarked turns. We had a couple of route mishaps including almost gatecrashing a Greek wedding celebration! There was great camaraderie in completing the overall route, with much jolliness on the final train journey home from Longbridge back to Sutton Coldfield. ***Sharon***

Dates for the Diary 2026

SCR 2026 AGM: This will be held on November 18th at 7.30pm at Four Oaks Cricket Club, Clarence Road, B74 4LS.
Christmas Coach Walk: Sunday December 6th to Ludlow. Check website for details under *Social Activities*.
SCR Mince Pie Walk: Sunday December 20th. Walk details will be added to the website.
Warwickshire Area 2027 AGM: This will be hosted by SCR on February 27th 2027. Further details will be circulated in the new year.
SCR Spring 2027 Short Holiday: This is being arranged by Mike F for Sunday April 4th to Wednesday April 7th staying at the South Lawn Hotel, Milford on Sea, Lymington. Check website for details under *Social Activities*.
SCR Autumn 2027 Short Holiday: This is being arranged by Julie S for October 1st to the 4th at HF Thorns Hall in Sedbergh. Check website for details under *Social Activities*.

Thank you to all who contributed to the newsletter. Contributions for the next Newsletter should be sent to Sharon Freedman (via the Contacts tab on the SCR website) by December 18th.

