



# South Bank Ramblers

## Annual General Meeting 2025

### Sunday 9 November at 13:45

### Draft Minutes

The Chair, Hilary Jarvis, opened the meeting, to which:

- Simon Atyeo had led 22 walkers from Lower Sydenham; and
- Dick Dunmore led 28 walkers from Vauxhall.

Total attendance was 45.

The formal business was preceded by a celebration of the Group reaching its fortieth birthday, for which Gail Bourne had baked a "SBR 40" birthday cake and Dave Hetherington had researched the history of the Group from programmes dating back to 1995 and other sources. He showed that perhaps a blunter approach to getting people to lead walks had been used compared to today. He would be posting an article on the website and asked if anyone had any programmes dating further back to get in touch.

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Received from Mark Brejza, Heather Bull, Dudley Cloake, Patricia Cloake, Lee Jenner, Barbara Nicholas, Gillian Robinson, Helen Turner and Nick White.

#### 2. Minutes of AGM of 17 November 2024 and matters arising

These had been posted on the South Bank website. Following a vote, the minutes were approved and accepted as a true record.

#### 3. Annual report of Chair (Hilary Jarvis)

Hilary's report from the Chair had been posted on the South Bank website.

She welcomed everyone to the Group's third AGM at the Windmill, an oasis of calm in a very urban area.

It had been a busy year for South Bank. We had a full programme of walks including short walks, longer more challenging walk, gardening walks, special interest walks and sightseeing walks. Among other highlights we had led walks for the Blind Ramblers and now had a group of volunteers who were very supportive in guiding at these events.

The Chair thanked the Committee for their hard work during the past year, and the Walk Leaders who had been leading so many varied walks. As ever there was a need to find new Walk Leaders as existing Leaders moved on or were temporarily unable to lead.

From the end of 2025, people leading walks for Ramblers would need either: to have led at least 12 walks for Ramblers in the last 3 years; to have completed 3 online training modules: or to hold a recognised mountain training qualification. We had gained 6 new walk leaders, all of whom had completed the new training, as had most existing South Bank leaders.

Tim Sai Louie, Chair of Inner London Ramblers, congratulated South Bank both on the number of walks they provide and their success ensuring that a large proportion of leaders had completed the training.



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The Chair encouraged all members to read emails/newsletters sent by Ramblers and to be an active participant. Ramblers offer training and varied talks to all their volunteers, which are interesting and very informative.

#### 4. Annual report of Walks Team (Liz Cleary)

We had produced three walk programmes in 2024-25, each covering a period of four months.

During the year, 13 walks had been cancelled, mainly due to illness, but in almost all cases another leader had offered a replacement walk. The outcome had been:

- 38 walks completed in Autumn 2024, September to December;
- 40 walks completed in Spring 2025, January to April; and
- 40 walks completed in Summer 2025; May to August.

In summary, 118 walks completed, an average of over 2¼ walks every week, by 26 leaders including the 6 new leaders mentioned by the Chair.

There had been a mix of urban and rural walks ranging in length from 6 to 15 miles, all accessible by public transport, including visits to gardens and the Airfield Control Tower Museum at Greenham Common.

Liz thanked Caroline Kerr, Hilary Porter, Dave Hetherington and the Walks Leaders for their role in planning and delivering such a large and varied programme.

#### 5. Annual report of Webmaster (Dave Hetherington)

Dave said that, since the last AGM, he had published around 1,700 photos taken on 103 different walks. He reminded those submitting photographs to do so to the shared [SbankWalks@gmail.com](mailto:SbankWalks@gmail.com), which would also allow Kleo to post them on Instagram and Facebook.

Photos should not be of low resolution, but he could reduce the size of large files if needed to make them suitable for publication.

There was also a need for variety on the website, to avoid too many photographs of “bluebells, snowdrops and sheep”.

He also drew attention to the “Latest Updates” section on the website publicising pop-up walks, cancellations and changes. The Walks Team have become proficient in updating the website and now carried out all updating.

Maintenance of the website “Joomla” software was carried out regularly but the need had been limited as the current software was quite stable.

Tim Sai Louie reported a concern with Walks Manager that inclusion of the word “CANCELLED” in a walk description had apparently led to the walk being cancelled, and encouraged the Walks Team to monitor Walks Manager carefully.



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Finally, Dave said he would welcome anyone computer literate and interested in learning how to manage the website.

### 6. Annual report of Membership Secretary (Barbara Moss)

Barbara explained that the status of “Associates”, who paid to receive South Bank programmes, had now ended with the production of printed programmes. She now dealt with two groups:

- Members of South Bank Group, for whom Ramblers HQ provided an email list; and
- Affiliates, Members of other Groups who have recorded with Ramblers HQ an interest in South Bank and for whom it provided an email list.

At the ends of October, the total number had been 713 in 2021, 712 in 2024 and 711 on 2025, a remarkable result.

Barbara also noted the value of welcoming people considering joining Ramblers on South Banks walks, to encourage them to join the organisation and the Group.

Barbara drew attention to Ramblers badges, leaflets and other marketing materials on the tables and encouraged people to take and place in libraries, community centres and other public places.

Finally, she reminded Members that Group Membership Secretaries can access but not change records held centrally by Ramblers. Members should notify any changes, such as address, direct to Ramblers, who would update the central records on which she drew.

### 7. Annual report on Social Media (Kleo Zhao)



[@southbankramblers](https://www.instagram.com/southbankramblers)

Kleo reported that there had now been 1,288 posts on our Instagram account since May 2021. Recent posts had been viewed an average of 130-180 times.

The Instagram account had 534 followers, 13% more than the previous year. 71% were women and 29% men, with broadly equal numbers in each of the age bands 35-44, 45-54, 55-64 and 65+.

The posts continued to be viewed people who were not following us, showing a growing reach to new audiences and potential to attract new supporters.



[southbankramblers | facebook](https://www.facebook.com/southbankramblers)

Since May 2022 we had an active Facebook page, linked to Instagram so that information and photos are automatically shared.

The Facebook account now had 180 followers, 19% up on the previous year.

Kleo noted three appearances in other media:



# South Bank Ramblers

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## Draft Minutes

- An article on a walk “*Linking Central London’s Elizabeth Line Station Entrances*,” written by Dick Dunmore, featured in **South East Walker** March 2025 issue, providing excellent publicity for our group. Since the Elizabeth line opened in 2022, this walk has been led 6 times and joined by over 100 participants.
- An article about our *Volunteer Summer Event* to be featured in **South East Walker** February 2026 issue.
- A local newspaper in the Pinner/Eastcote area published an article in October about our walk *Northwood Hills to Rickmansworth*, led by Richard Hodgkinson. The piece encouraged readers to explore the great outdoors and provided excellent publicity for our group and its activities.

Kleo also read three examples of unsolicited feedback from individuals who had attended South Bank walks.

Hilary Jarvis thanked Kleo for responding to queries through our media and giving, or arranging, timely and tactful answers to questions.

### 8. Treasurer’s report (Linda Casbolt)

Full text of the Accounts and report had been provided on the website.

Linda highlighted the main points of the Accounts and her report:

- In the past three years, the Group had declined the “Basic Allocation” of around £1 per Member offered by Ramblers HQ, but for 2024-25 had accepted the £780 offered.
- Income from Ramblers Worldwide Holidays has risen from £340 to £390 in 2024-25. Members booking a holiday with RWH should mention the Group in the special request box to ensure that we receive this income.
- All Committee meetings had held cost-free online or at a Committee member’s home.
- Most costs therefore related to the AGM and the summer training and/or social event.

The accounts had been examined and certified by the Independent Examiner, Jane Baird, on this basis.

Following a vote, the meeting approved and accepted the Accounts and the Treasurer’s report.

### 9. Discussion of motions and issues from Members

No formal motions had been received from Members and no issues were raised by Members present.

### 10. Election of Officers to the Committee

Nominations for positions on the Committee had been posted on the website and further nominations were invited in advance.

Following a vote, the Committee for 2025-26 was as shown on the table below.



# South Bank Ramblers

## Annual General Meeting 2025

### Sunday 9 November at 13:45

### Draft Minutes

| Role (Note that different role names may be recorded by Ramblers) | Elected for 2025-26 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Chair                                                             | Sue Ellenby         |
| Secretary                                                         | Dick Dunmore        |
| Treasurer                                                         | Linda Casbolt       |
| Walks Organiser                                                   | Liz Cleary          |
| Membership Secretary                                              | Craig Dunant        |
| Web Manager                                                       | Dave Hetherington   |
| Publicity & Marketing                                             | Kleo Zhao           |
| Social activities                                                 | Gail Bourne         |
| Inner London representatives                                      | Dick Dunmore        |
|                                                                   | Linda Casbolt       |
| Other Committee members without portfolio                         | Hilary Jarvis       |

Sue was pleased to be returning to the role of Chair but indicated how important it was to get new people involved. She acknowledged how very impressive Hilary and the team had been in keeping the group thriving both during and after the pandemic. She encouraged people to give their time and ideas to the group. She outlined the buddy system for new leaders and the volunteer event as supportive and fun for those involved.

#### 11. Area Council and General Council

Tim Sai Louie said that the Inner London Area AGM would be on 7 December 2025 at Coram's Fields, 93 Guildford Street, London WC1N 1DN. South Bank Members were welcome to attend and/or to join either of the two walks to the AGM from Blackfriars or Paddington.

At the AGM the Area appoints three representatives for General Council, Ramblers' governing body, in 2026.

#### 12. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Jane Baird had offered to act as Independent Examiner for 2025-26.

After a vote, her nomination was approved and accepted by a vote.

#### 13. Quiz answers

The Quiz, sourced by Hilary Jarvis, related to identifying stations in London from pictorial clues to their names.



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## Annual General Meeting 2025

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#### 14. Any other business

Hilary Jarvis ceremonially cut the Group's birthday cake, slices of which were distributed to attendees.

Barbara Moss and Hilary Jarvis were given gifts to thank them for the roles they had so ably filled:

- Hilary Jarvis thanked Barbara Moss for her contribution as Membership Secretary.
- Linda Casbolt thanked Hilary Jarvis for her contribution as Chair.

With no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 14:43.