

**Minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting of the Ramblers Association
Strathkelvin Group held at Park Centre, Kirkintilloch, on Thursday 15th November,
2018 @ 7pm**

Present: James Lawson, Freda Bunyan, Ella Corbett, Bob Cole, Barbara Martin, Ailsa MacLennan, Neil Kitchener, Christine Kitchener, Ann Bain, Robert Bain, Archie Leishman, Evelyn Leishman, Margaret Wilson, Evelyn Cook, Bob Coggie, Rena Scott, Ann Martin, Frank Duffy, Christine Duffy, Frances Price, Elke Hinton, Ann Blair, Aileen McLay, Iain Walker, Mary Murphy, Ann Langley, Mary Brown, David Ford, Marjory Dunn, Elizabeth Paterson, Surinder Kaur Atwal, Matt Miller

Welcome: Jim welcomed everyone to the 26th Strathkelvin AGM

Apologies: Moira Lang, Hilary Sneddon, Maggie Nutley, Anne Wilkie, Joan Darling, Rosemary McHugh, Martha Thom, Caroline Logan, Alan Connor, Margaret Gibb, Ian Brown, Gordon Brown, Janette Ferguson, John Hinton, Shirley Cowan, Molly McGarry, Hazel Macfarlane, Sheila Meiklejohn, Lesley Queen, Mary Campbell

Introduction: Jim requested that everyone ensure they had signed the attendance register. Also, everyone should have a copy of the booklet containing the 26th AGM papers. It was appreciated that members had not had time to read those papers so he would take them through the individual reports.

Minutes of the 25th Annual General Meeting: These were accepted as a true record
Proposed: Aileen McLay, seconded by Christine Kitchener.

Matters Arising: None

STRATHKELVIN RAMBLERS 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Committee:

Chairperson	James Lawson
Secretary (See note)	Ann Martin**
Treasurer	Robert Bain
Programme Co-ordinator	Neil Kitchener*
Membership Secretary	Bob Cole**
Webmaster	Archie Leishman**
Footpaths Officer	James Lawson
Transport Convenor	Robert Bain
Hall Convenor	Barbara Martin
Ordinary Member	Mary Brown

Note: At the AGM no one stood for election as Group Secretary and Ann Martin's offer to be Secretary was accepted by the committee.

* The Programme Co-ordinator Neil Kitchener chairs the Programme Sub-committee whose members are Bob Cole**, Liz Patterson, Evelyn Leishman, Hazel Macfarlane, Maggie Nutley

** Due to ill health Bob Cole resigned and Archie Leishman took over as Membership Secretary on a temporary basis and Ann Martin joined the Programme Sub-committee.

Walking & Social Programmes

During the year Programmes 54 and 55 were published. These programmes represent a lot of work by the sub-committee and especially the walk leaders who supply the walks and those who organise the social events or are involved in organising the Group's Weekend Away.

We never seem to get enough leaders and the committee is constantly striving to find new ways to encourage members to come forward and lead walks. If you have an idea then let the committee know.

The social events report is on pages 13 and 14. All events have been successful and well supported by the members.

The take up for the weekend in Ballachulish was disappointing with a large number of dropouts. However, 14 members attended and enjoyed the various walks over the weekend, the weather was kind, a great hotel with fantastic views, good food and slide show at night by Bob Cole on the days walk. Thank you to Bob Cole, Robert Bain and Neil Kitchener for organising the weekend.

The table below gives a breakdown of the walks by grade and a quick glance shows that there are two walks each week. Also, included are walks on Wednesdays.

Buses for walks were well supported by members and thanks to Robert Bain for all the juggling and organising to ensure that everything went smoothly. However, members are reminded that if they do not turn up for the bus after booking a seat they still have to pay.

WALK GRADE	C	C+	B	B+	A	A+	Total
Prog 53 (Nov 17 – Mar 18)	9	13	17	0	0	0	39
Prog 54 (Apr 18 – Sep 18)	13	14	20	7	6	0	60
Prog 55 (Oct 18 – Nov 18)	2	6	4	1	0	0	13
TOTAL	24	33	41	8	6	0	112

Please note: B(Easy) graded walks are included along with B grade walks.

Short Walk Programme

There has been a short walk every Thursday giving a total of 53 walks (November 2017 to November 2018) with between 4 and 15 members on each walk. The walks are around 5km (3 miles) in length with an accumulated height of less than 300ft. Members meet up at the start of the walk at 10:00 am and at the end of the walk have coffee and a chance to chat. Details of walks are sent by email or text weekly to anyone who registers for the short walks.

Training

This is always ongoing as we all constantly learn.

The First Aid Course at Hillhead Community Centre arranged thanks to Hilary Sneddon and Robert Bain and run by St Andrews First Aid was well attended. Hopefully the skills learned will never have to be used for real!

Member/s attended the Ramblers Scotland Workshop at Stirling University and the Walk Leader training course at Mugdock Country Park.

Communications

The walk reports posted on our website by members provide feedback on individual walks together with pictures. Thank you to members posting reports and it would be nice if more members added reports. Archie Leishman our Webmaster adds all Strathkelvin Walks on to the Ramblers main database (Walk Finder) and maintains the Strathkelvin website adding all the programmes, socials, minutes, etc. and works hard to ensure all changes usually at short notice are done in a timely manner.

Emails are becoming the norm for messages but paper programmes are still produced. However, the best recruitment tool remains word of mouth so tell your friends and others how good the Ramblers are and how much you enjoy the walks and social events. Invite them to come on a walk.

Other Forums

The 2018 North Strathclyde Area AGM hosted by Strathkelvin Ramblers was held in Lenzie Public Hall. Thank you to all the members who attended and a very special thank you to Ella Corbett and her team for all the home baking. The 2019 North Strathclyde Area AGM is being hosted by Monkland Ramblers and takes place on Saturday, 26 January 2019 and will be held in the main hall at Coatbridge Indoor Bowling Club, Quarry Street, Coatbridge ML5 3PU.

Scottish Council 2018 was held in Aberdeen on 10/11 March and was attended by Archie Leishman and Ann Martin on behalf of the group. Scottish Council 2019 is in Dunblane on 9/10 March 2019.

East Dunbartonshire Outdoor Access Forum where Jim Lawson is our representative.

Footpaths

Report on pages 13 and 14.

Accounts

A copy of the group accounts for 2017 -18 prepared by Robert Bain our treasurer is supplied. The statements show the club enjoys a healthy financial position. Thank you to our Independent Examiner Richard Britton for his services.

Committee

All the members on the committee have been working hard to ensure the smooth running of the group and throughout this report I have referred to various roles. Other roles include Barbara Martin (Halls Convenor) is busy ensuring that venues are booked for all our meetings. Bob Cole (Membership Secretary) for looking after recruitment and ensuring new members are welcomed and for distributing any email communications. Thank you to Archie Leishman for taking on the additional role of Membership Secretary and Neil Kitchener for taking on the role of messenger sending out emails on all the various changes to walks, etc. when Bob Cole resigned from the committee due to ill health. Bob thank you for your input to the committee I wish you a speedy recovery and hope that sometime in the future you will come back on the committee.

Conclusion

A very busy year with lots achieved, but as always there is still more to be achieved. My thanks to the committee for their support throughout the year. Also, thank you to all our leaders (walks & social) for supporting the events throughout the last year.

Future

Volunteers to fill the vacancies on the committee and also more members to come forward and lead walks are required. So now is the time to volunteer.

On behalf of the committee

James Lawson (Jim) – Chairperson - Strathkelvin Ramblers

STRATHKELVIN RAMBLERS 2018 FOOTPATH REPORT

November 2017 – October 2018

Yet another busy year with more than ever happening.

Annual North Strathclyde Area Access Meeting Saturday, 11th November 2017

The access meeting was well attended with members from all over Scotland. My list below gives an idea of issues discussed.

- Muirshield Country Park planning to hold a Walking Festival in 2018
- What does Scottish Legislation say about cattle in a field?
- Scottish Access Newsletter?
- Planning applications environment statements?
- Electric fences what warning signs should be displayed?
- Developments within 50 m of a core path?
- New landowner blocked paths?
- Not a path only a desirable line?
- Local Community Councils comment on planning applications
- Path between two streets blocked off by a fence at either end result there is a street light in a garden – Milton-of-Campsie
- Cost of legal action
- No money so Waterside Bridge, Kirkintilloch unlikely to be replaced in short term
- Solar Farms occupying entire farms i.e. 50 – 100 hectares. How does this affect access?
- Newly planted woodlands with 2m high fences. What happens to access?
- Antonine Wall £1.5M investment planned.
- Local Access Forums need more power.
- Donations from walkers for paths in National Parks? Why? Motorists not asked for donations for using park roads
- Scottish Outdoor Access Alliance – working together on access issues.
- Access Officers based in planning departments – is this best practice?
- Active Travel – core paths - between hospitals, schools, shops, parks, etc. being promoted
- Studies on benefit of exercise – interesting!
- Council Policy on Access Complaints Procedures – does your council have one?

Scotways AGM held in Dewar's Ice Rink, Perth on Saturday 18th November 2017

I attended as a member of Scotways. One project of interest is they are creating an interactive map of all the Scotways signage with a photo of each sign. My two photos of signage erected jointly by Strathkelvin Ramblers and Scotways copied to Scotways for inclusion.

The East Dunbartonshire Access Forum (EDAF) met on Monday, 16th January 2018 at Council HQ, Marina.

The updated Access Forum Constitution was discussed and agreed with regard to length of time forum members would serve. Number of meetings, Annual Tour, improved communications e.g. a page on council website.

Burncrooks Water Treatment Works, Milngavie were discussed and the effect on access with the closure of paths while work takes place.

Hilton Park Forest Creation, Carbeth has a high fence and the gates are reports to be away from existing paths. This loss of long used paths will be discussed with the Forestry Commission.

The damaged Luggie Water bridge is to be demolished. As part of the core paths network LAF hopes a replacement will be forthcoming.

Request for a path/cycling route from Auchinloch to Stepps. This is in North Lanarkshire. The Kelvin Way linking Glasgow and East Dunbartonshire improvements it is hoped to use volunteers from conservation groups to do the work once agreement is reached with land owner.

Two new woodlands at Balcorrach Wood, Lennoxtown and Waterhead Hill in the Campsie have been given the go ahead.

A study has been carried out to create an EDC loop linking all the communities in East Dunbartonshire.

East Dunbartonshire Access Forum Meeting held on 16 April 2018

A. Shared paths –problem reported to Forum by Torrance resident regarding horses on paths at Main Street to Michael McParland Drive and Campbell Place to Moray Drive. Possible solutions include - working with the BHS and communicating with local livery yards to promote responsible riding or signage on residential paths promoting awareness and considerate behaviour towards other users or to improve the paths.

B. SNH review of sustainable deer management - The lowland deer panel are keen to receive opinions from the public who use the outdoors for recreation and might encounter deer. EDC manage deer at Mugdock by culling to preserve the SSSI habitats but it has also helped to reduce the numbers of accidents in the Strathblane area. Stock fencing to manage deer can cause access problems.

C. Rotary Club

1. Potential core path – the Rotary Club are keen to see the path from Low Craigton Farm to Laighpark become part of the core path network. The Clyde coastal path follows the existing core path from Craigton Cottages along The Loan to Laighpark but the Rotary Club would like to improve the quality of the CCP by altering the route along this alternative traffic free route.

2. Core paths on Ordnance Survey Maps –The Ramblers Scotland, SNH, and the NAF have held discussion with the OS and the Rotary Club could contact them for information regarding the campaign to get paths shown on OS maps.

D. Scotways will shortly be publishing an updated version of the Law Guide book in both short and long versions.

E. Forth and Clyde canal is currently not navigable along its entire length. The bridges at Twechar and Bonnybridge require major engineering repair works and Scottish Canals have no funding available this year.

F. Planning application received for the former Gartshore Colliery at Waterside Road proposing restoration of former colliery through the extraction of hard rock and inert waste landfill, including inert waste recycling (Application No. TP/ED/18/0223). There are two rights of way affected.

G. New Cycle Map - East Dunbartonshire Council / Healthy Habits have published a Cycle Map. Copies are in local libraries.

East Dunbartonshire Local Access Forum Tour - Monday 4th June 2018

The first walk started at Waterside Miners Welfare Institute and crossed the footbridge over the Luggie Water and followed the core path along the northern side of the Luggie Water to Wester Gartshore Footbridge which has been closed for public safety due to its poor condition. Then walk up Waterside Bing and return along the same route to the stepping stones to cross over the Luggie Water. The path on the other side of the Luggie Water climbed up to the fields above, crosses the fields to meet the Dam Braes public right of Way and followed this path back down into Waterside to the bridge where the walk began. Members of Waterside Community Council walked with us.

The second walk round Torrance was to look at problems with core paths in the village. The third walk explored the former railway line between Torrance and Birdston to see what problems there would be in trying to get the blocked section reopened as a path. This problem being looked into at present

Ongoing Footpath Work

Local paths and Rights of Way are walked on Thursday Short Walks. So far this year all the paths have been either good or under repair which is dependent on when finance is available.

A member reported that In the Campsie, not far from the Crow Road car park, Crichton's Cairn had been demolished. There is an ongoing debate about the rights and wrongs of cairns, but in this case, there is some local history/folklore involved and it is included in the Walk Lennoxtown leaflet. The matter has been raised with the Local Access Officer.

The new housing development at the old Broomhill Hospital site and its effect on paths is another matter of concern and needs to be raised at the access forum.

James Lawson (Jim)
Strathkelvin Ramblers Footpath Officer

PS I hope after reading the report and noting the range of issues that more members will get involved in footpaths work.

SOCIAL EVENTS DECEMBER 2017 – NOVEMBER 2018

THURSDAY DECEMBER 7

The ever popular ORAN MOR PANTO was well attended and enjoyed by all. Thanks to Anne Clark for all her organization.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 9

This was a busy social week with the Annual Christmas Lunch at Milton of Campsie Bowling Club organised by Ann Martin and Christine Paccione. Barbara Martin was able to give those of us with poor memories, details of our orders! This was a big success, thanks to all who worked hard.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 17

Neil Kitchener arranged a visit to Fairfields, which despite the poor weather, was a very interesting and worthwhile trip.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 21

A photo night at Lenzie Bowling Club, attended by 21 people, which Bob Cole had put together was good fun, and the amazing fish suppers with accompaniments plus ice cream, all served by Jaz, Surindar and Parmjit finished off a great evening.

TUESDAY MARCH 17

Aileen McLay booked a very nice lunch at Calle Café followed by an excellent and informative tour of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Museum and was enjoyed by eleven people.

TUESDAY APRIL 3

Unfortunately the Bowling Bonanza arranged by Bob Cole had to be cancelled due to Bob being unwell but we hope it can be rearranged when Bob recovers full health.

MONDAY APRIL 30

Another great visit, attended by 20 people, to the Gurdwara, this time in Albert Drive, for a guided tour followed by lovely food in the LANGAR.

Thanks to Parmjit for organising this for us

TUESDAY MAY 22

Alan Connor once again arranged a lovely meal, this time at the Indian Cottage, which was enjoyed by all 14 people who attended.

SUNDAY JUNE 3

This was a very interesting insight into what goes on behind the scenes and backstage at the Citizens Theatre, and of course the coffee and cake to finish, was appreciated by the 14 who came along.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 25

This turned out to be a beautiful summer evening when 6 teams met at Barleybank and set off to solve Neil's clues on the Treasure Hunt (He has promised to have fewer clues if he does it again next year. Lots of fun and laughs and really enjoyed by all.

AUGUST

The Emirates Arena tour had unfortunately to be cancelled

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 14

Barbara Martin's visit to the Glasgow Museums Resource Centre proved to be a huge success with the time allocated running well over. This was partly due to the lift breaking down which added to the excitement. The visit finished with an excellent lunch at Pollok House.

OCTOBER

Surinder and her daughter Gurpreet arranged cookery lessons for 2 groups of 6 people each in their home over 6 Mondays. This was really informative covering starters and main courses and was thoroughly enjoyed by all 12 who attended. This was a real insight into Indian Cookery and of course the sampling of the finished article was just wonderful!!

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14

The thirty people who turned up for the Scholars Lunch on a miserable wet day all seemed to enjoy the lovely meal. There was also the added excitement of a fire alarm when we all had to evacuate the building and stand in the rain!

STRATHKELVIN RAMBLERS 26th AGM – ELECTION FORM

ELECTION OF HONORARY OFFICERS			
Position	Candidate	Proposer	Seconder
Chairperson	James Lawson		
Vice Chairperson	Vacant		
Secretary	Ann Martin		
Minute Secretary	Mary Brown		
Treasurer	Robert Bain		
Programme Co-ordinator	Neil Kitchener		
Membership Secretary	Anne Wilkie		
Transport Convenor	Robert Bain		
Footpaths Officer	James Lawson		
Halls Convenor	Barbara Martin		
Webmaster	Vacant		
Ordinary Member	Martha Thom		
Ordinary Member	Vacant		
Ordinary Member	Vacant		
Independent Examiner	Richard Britton		
All Committee and Independent Examiner -- Proposed By Frank Duffy Secounded by Mary Murphy			

ELECTION OF GROUP REPRESENTATIVES TO NORTH STRATHCLYDE AREA COUNCIL			
Position	Candidate	Proposer	Seconder
Representative 1	James Lawson	Frank Duffy	Mary Murphy
Representative 2			
Representative 3			

ELECTION OF GROUP REPRESENTATIVES TO SCOTTISH COUNCIL			
Position	Candidate	Proposer	Seconder
Delegate	Archie Leishman	Christine Duffy	Bob Coggie
Observer	Ann Martin	Christine Duffy	Bob Coggie

Jim then welcomed Jeannie Cranfield, Delivery Officer from Ramblers Scotland who had come to speak to our members on the work done by the staff members and thanked our many volunteers who lead walks every week.

Recommended we stay in touch by receiving the e-newsletter.

She also explained the new App. Why we would use it to register members at each walk and how useful it might be to gather data, how many walks, popular walks, how many people on each walk, how many walk leaders or volunteers.

Spoke about the Scottish Council Meeting in March, 2019 and that £500.00 was available to support any project that we might wish to consider. Our members did not appear to think that the App. would be helpful to our group.

Jim gave Jeannie a very warm vote of thanks.

We then had a short social break for tea and home baking and this was followed by our Raffle and numerous prizes donated by our members.

AOCB

Ella spoke about the slower paced walks being very successful and hope that there might be more in next programme and thanked the leaders of these walks.

Jim thanked Ella and her group for the lovely tea and Home Baking which had been enjoyed by all.

Ann Martin, Ann Langley and Liz Paterson were then thanked for organizing the Raffle.

Jim then said Thank You to Jeannie for giving up her time to come along and speak to us and it was really nice to have heard her talk of the varied roles of the members of Ramblers Scotland.

The meeting was closed at 21.10hrs.

Ann Martin
19/11/18