

Chairs Report 2026

Firstly, a thank you to all of our members, without you we wouldn't exist and a big thank you to our walk leaders and committee members, also essential to our function.

I will be talking a bit more about what is going on nationally with Ramblers at the AGM. We now no longer have an active Worcestershire area group. Simon Mallatratt, who was very active within area sadly passed away earlier this year.

Last year I was concerned about the now mandatory walk leader training but am pleased to find my fears unfounded and new walk leaders coming on board and showing us new routes. It always a shame when experienced walk leaders leave but we have to recognise that it will happen to all of us. I do need to pay a special thank you to Alan Terry who not only offered many walks over the years but also fabulous holidays and social events.

Things have generally been running pretty smoothly and having our own email list to keep in touch with you is working well. If you aren't getting the odd email from the group, and would like to, please contact Renu to be added to the list. We are now going to trial having a Worcester Ramblers WhatsApp group, please let Renu if you want to be added to this as well. Both lists are for Worcester Rambler members only.

This year saw our group going to Exmoor for an HF holiday in March and then having another holiday in September in the Forest of Dean. Many thanks to those helping to organise these and for recceing and leading the walks. Holidays in the pipeline include Malta (fully booked) and hopefully Cannock Chase, Arnside and Dartmoor. We have been formalising which members we will offer future holidays to – this is to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all members of the group participating.

We are delighted that our walks programme has been pretty full (floods and heatwaves excepted) and that we offered some summer evening walks for the first time in a number of years. We plan to repeat this again next year. We ran a basic map reading course in February, please let us know if you would be interested in another one of these.

We have had a variety of social events which included the Christmas lunch and summer event at Monkwood. It was a pleasure to celebrate the life and walks of our past Chair on the John Gregson Memorial walk and lunch. We are hoping that we can invite some ex/non walking members to next years summer event as a way of maintaining these connections.

Please share with us any feedback you have on our group and give us suggestions for what we could do better. We hope to see you at the AGM. Happy walking!

Anne Holmes

September 2026