SOUTH EAST BERKS RAMBLERS

40th Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 4th November 2026 at 2pm

The Frog & Wicket, The Green, Eversley Cross, Hook RG**27 0NS**

1. APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Penny Tomlin, Andrew & Anthea Johnson, Shirley & Brian Poulton. Shirley sent a message read by Helen Berridge:

Hello everyone.
This is not quite the way I wanted to end my Chairmanship of 14 years with the SEBR Group. I would rather have been with you all enjoying the walk and lunch, but unfortunately I am needed elsewhere and it is not something I could avoid. I have really enjoyed being the group's Chairman and I am proud of my involvement in making the group what it is today "a lovely, friendly, welcoming, walking group" .

I hope the AGM goes well and I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

2. REPORTS

a. Chairman- Helen Berridge read out the Chairman's report - which can be viewed on the website
The members present applauded Shirley's commitment and hard work during her 14 years as Chairman of SEBR.

b. Vice Chairman. Ed Berridge covered his report under separate items

c. Secretary - Nothing to report

d- Treasurer - Steve Wells read his report which can be viewed on the website.
The accounts were audited by Kate Wratten.
The accounts were Proposed by Peter Maguire and Seconded by Roger Jones.
The meeting approved by a unanimous show of hands.

e. Membership - Andy Young read his report which is attached under Appendix 3

Andy asked members to check their junk emails if they do not receive the newsletter

f Publicity - no report

g. Wednesday Walks Coordinator - Laurayne Barber's report is available on the website.

.h. Webmaster, Walks Manager - Mark Purnell read his report which is available on the website.Mark spoke about his plans to refresh the SEBR website in the coming year and is looking at making it easier for walk leaders to submit walks further in advance.

i. Footpaths - Colin Bird read his report which is available on the website.

Kate Wratten asked if our thanks could be passed on the Footpaths Team at BFP for their diligence in acting promptly to requests from the Ramblers.
Brian Kemp asked if it was wise to convert public footpaths into bridleways as some cyclists were reckless and a danger to pedestrians.

j. Sunday Walks - Alan Hoskins read out his report for the meeting.

Sunday walks start at 9.30 and are 5.5 - 6 miles long finishing at 12.00pm. In the heatwave Alan started at 8.30 which proved popular. The walks are based in the north of our area including Knowl Hill and Staines. There has been a Sunday walk every week thanks to other walk leaders covering for Alan's absence Alan thanked Andy Young, Ed Berridge, Andrew Johnson and Brian Poulton for covering.

The average number of walkers is 15/16 p/w and are a different group including people who are still working and people from other areas including North and West London, Hillingdon and Surrey Heath. There are a good selection of walks including Burnham Beeches, Bishop's Green Farm, Maiden's Green.

There have been some problems with parking restrictions being imposed in some areas which means that members have to pay to park their cars. Other problems are the number of bridges which are out of action over the River Thames.

The bridges are: **Hurley/Marlow** which has been dismantled. A local resident was using a boat to ferry passengers over the river earning money for various charities. He was called Brian (Brian Ferry) which the members found amusing. **Staines/ Runnymede** which is shut- the diversion running close to the M25. **Bray Marina** bridge is shut due to its poor condition.

Good News! Linda from Windsor Ramblers met Andy Young our Membership Secretary on a Sunday walk and they are now engaged. Alan wished them all the best.

An Xmas day walk from Windmill Meadows attracted 13 people.
A bus walk from Ascot - Windsor Great Park and back attracted 11 walkers.
A picnic in the park during Ascot week enabled members to view royalty and guests alighting from limousines to carriages. A good photography position.
Oxford City Walk - attractsd 15 people.

For 2027 Alan plans a Reading Town walk, another xmas walk and Andrew Johnson is planning a Burnham Beeches walk in the coming weeks to see the autumn colours.

Ed Berridge thanked Alan for his efforts in running the Sunday walks as these are much appreciated by members.

k Holiday Coordinator - Ed Berridge read his report which is available on the website. Ken and Roger Jones both thanked Ed for his efforts in arranging the various holidays.

l. Sunday Long Walks - Ed Berridge read his report which is available as Appendix 6.

m. Tuesday Walks - John Campbell reported that Tuesday walks are now held on the first Tuesday of the month. The walks are stile free introductory walks and this week attracted 14 walkers with 6 walkers from Surrey Heath.

Ed Berridge thanked John and Sue Campbell for their efforts in running the Tuesday walks.

3. Election of Officers & Committee:

Chairman

As the Chairman's position is vacant, Ed Berridge as Vice Chairman was nominated:
Proposed by Steve Wells and Seconded by Phil Cobley
A show of hands was unanimous.

Treasurer

Steve Wells is willing to continue his position of Treasurer:
Proposed by Alan Hoskins and Seconded by Denise Jones
A show of hands was unanimous.

Secretary

Helen Berridge is willing to continue in her position of Secretary.
Proposed by Rachel Cobley and Seconded by Denise Jones
A show of hands was unanimous

Membership Secretary

Andy Young is willing to continue in his position of Membership Secretary
Proposed by Helen Berridge and Seconded by Roger Jones
A show of hands was unanimous

Publicity Officer

This position remains vacant

Webmaster/Walks Manager

Mark Purnell is willing to continue in his position of Webmaster/Walks Manager
Proposed by Kate Wratten and Seconded by Andy Young
A show of hands was unanimous

Footpaths Officer

Colin Bird is willing to continue in his position of Footpaths Officer
Proposed by Andy Young and Seconded by Mark Purnell
A show of hands was unanimous

Area Representative

Kate Wratten suggested the Committee should decide who will attend the area meetings.
This was agreed by the Committee.

Wednesday Walks Coordinator

As there were no nominations, Ed Berridge will temporarily fill this position.

Social Events Organiser - vacant

Julie Veazey and Pauline Fothergill offered to organise a summer coach trip in June 2027
The Committee agreed to look at other social events between them as they are suggested.

4. ELECTION OF HONORARY EXAMINER OF ACCOUNTS

Kate Wratten indicated that she is happy to continue to examine the accounts
Proposed by Steve Wells and Seconded by Denise Jones
A show of hands was unanimous.

5. AOB

Laurayne informed the meeting that she is setting up a library of walks on the OS Maps App for walk leaders to use for future walks planning. There are currently 54 walks available. Laurayne asked walk leaders to send GPX links to her to include in the database. Any walk leader will be able to log into the account when it is up and running, including multiple walk leaders leading large groups.

Sue Campbell asked if the database could include other walks featured in magazine or websites. Laurayne replied that it is only OS links at the moment.

Pauline reported that she is having trouble with the SEBR walks programme finding the start of a walk as it keeps moving, which is leading to confusion. Steve asked that if any walk leaders were finding this problem, please could they send details to Mark Purnell to look at.

Helen Berridge thanked John and Sue Campbell for leading the walk prior to the meeting and also Mark Purnell for organising and booking the Frog and Wicket for the AGM. The members present agreed that it was a good venue.

The meeting closed at 15.20