

Chairman's Report for October 2025 AGM

This year the SEBR walks programme has been full with lots of interesting and varied walks. The group were offered a trip to Battersea Power Station in August which included a walk of some 4 miles along the Thames path with lots of interesting history. Our monthly Tuesday and weekly Sunday morning walks are still popular. It would be nice to see someone come forward who would be prepared to lead longer walks on a Sunday. Our Wednesday walks continue to be very well attended as does the offer of a pub lunch afterwards.

I have attended all the Area Meetings this year and have been acting as their Vice Chairman for some time now. I attend most of the Central Office on-line Eventbrite meetings which enables me to be aware of what other Groups are doing. It is very useful to listen and also participate in these meetings as, of course, not all groups have the same ideas.

As for the recent ruling regarding all walk leaders doing at least 12 walks in 3 years otherwise they would be required to complete the online training. – Well I just thought it was another rule Central Office had NOT PROPERLY THOUGHT THROUGH so I objected!! Let me explain my objection: two walk leaders very often do the pre-walk together and then they lead the walk together, EXCEPT one of them is now acting as the back marker. Both leaders have put as much time & effort into that walk BUT ONLY ONE could claim the walk as theirs. I am very glad to say that Central Office listened to my objection and changed the ruling. Both walk leaders are now able to claim that same walk as one of their 12.

Events this year have been a Coach Trip to Hamble in June with a pub lunch and a forthcoming Barn Dance in November. I have also arranged to have a post-Christmas lunch on Wednesday February 4th at the Frog & Wicket, Eversley with a walk starting at 10am led by me. The number of people for lunch is limited to 40.

Ed Berridge will talk to you about our Group Holidays.

I am stepping aside as Chairman this year. I have headed this group for some 13 years now but felt it was only fair that some new faces and fresh ideas are brought to the group. I have had a great time and hope the Committee continue to enjoy their roles as much as I have.

Shirley Poulton
Chairman