

**The 2025 Annual General Meeting of Gateshead Civic Walking Club will be held in the Lamesley Room, Ground Floor, Civic Centre on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026, commencing at 6pm.**

## **AGENDA**

- ❶ **Appointment of Chairperson:** Ania Retkowska.
- ❷ **Apologies for Absence:** Kevin Nelson.
- ❸ **Approval of the Minutes of the 2025 AGM & Matters Arising.** (*copy circulated*).
  - ❶ Matters Arising.
- ❹ **2025 Secretary's Report:** (*copy circulated*).
  - ❶ Matters Arising.
- ❺ **Appointment of 2026 Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Committee:**

Nominations Received by Due Date [31 <sup>st</sup> December 2025]		
Officers		Other Members
Secretary	Graeme Page	Evelyn Brown
		Lynn Ford
Assistant Secretary	Ania Retkowska	Anne Marie Forster
		Roger Smith

## ❻ **Questionnaire Responses – Committee Proposals.**

### ❶ **Minibus**

We will attempt to continue to offer some minibus trips as many members value these, in particular the ability to access the Lake District and other longer distance venues. However, this will depend on minibus quotes for 2026. If able we will offer a limited number of minibus trips in 2026 due to the low numbers of bookings and the likely increase in cost. It was suggested that these be in May, June and September.

We will need to increase the cost per person depending on quotes for 2026, but will proceed on the basis of a minimum of 12 bookings. This will require the continuation of subsidies from Club funds.

We will only give refunds if all places on the bus are filled.

We will aim at bus journey times not exceeding 2 hours to allow more time for walking, socialising etc.

### ❷ **Car sharing**

Other Saturday walks should be on a strictly car sharing basis. (Not meet at venue).

This is vital because it is more inclusive, allows non car owners/drivers to attend, is better for new members, is better for the environment, and reduces pressure on limited car parking spaces, particularly in more remote or small venues. We will aim at a maximum 1.45 driving time from Gateshead, to venues in Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire Coast, Moors and Dales, and the Scottish Borders.

We need a workable car sharing system, with more meet up to share points (Hexham? Durham? Morpeth? Other?) and considering how to cater for members who are none car owners/drivers, and members who wish to bring their dog.

Petrol costs will be shared by the driver and passengers of each car with money to be agreed and paid on the day.

Bookings will still need to be made with the Club but no booking fee will be charged for car sharing events. We need all members to identify if they are a car owner /driver, and are prepared to drive and offer lifts to those who need them. Specific drivers can be arranged on an event basis. Start time for car share walks will be 10am. We will encourage sharing of contact numbers for easier co-ordination on the day if individual members agree. (Data Protection requirement).

### ③ Walking routes

We will aim to cater for all members by offering higher level/longer routes, and lower level/shorter routes. We will ensure that the higher level/longer routes can be comfortably achieved in time to return to the minibus. We will continue to encourage members to suggest walks to be added to the programme. Members should provide details of starting point, distance, ascent and route map. We will explore the viability of having 'led' walks as requested by some members, bearing in mind we would need members to volunteer to lead walks. There may be scope in asking members to informally lead on routes they are familiar with. We could also ask for volunteers to reccie unfamiliar/potentially more challenging routes, and informally lead these.

### ④ Other

The email booking system will remain in place for now but we will look at other potential options for the future, such as WhatsApp. We will retain a minimal membership fee of £5 per year. We will continue to offer an instalment system of payments for weekend and week trips. We will retain the additional charges of £5 for a weekend trip and £10 for a week trip. If instalments are not required, these charges could be dropped. We will discuss changing the date of the AGM to April to encourage a bigger attendance, and run an April to March programme. In line with the above, we will extend the current membership to 31 March 2026, without charge. This will allow time for the new systems to be put in place and changes to the Club constitution can be discussed at the new AGM. We will propose a £500 donation to Mountain Rescue at the AGM. The increased donation to Mountain Rescue is suggested as making best use of reserve funds, while keeping enough to cover other expenses such as minibus subsidies, yearly insurance, advance payments for bus hire, and holiday deposits. We will review the constitution to reflect any changes made. As David Ellerington has regrettably decided to step down from organising Sunday walks these events are likely not to continue. However, members could arrange Sunday walks on an informal basis for example via WhatsApp. We will explore more use of tech/social media for promotion, organisation and bookings. We will explore offering informal and formal means of map reading training for new and inexperienced members. We will explore having more weekend events, which could be organised on a less formal basis. We will organise social events.

### ⑦ Motions Submitted & Received by the Due Date [31<sup>st</sup> December 2025]:

- ① To donate £500 to the Lake District Search and Mountain Rescue Association (LDSAMRA);
- ② To extend the expiry of 2025 Club Membership to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 free of charge;
- ③
- ④



### ⑧ Proposed Change to the Club Constitution Rule 6.2.5: [must be approved by 2/3].

- ① [6.3.2] Should installment facilities be required for both Club week & weekend events, a £5 per participant administration fee will be levied.



## 9 2026 Calendar of Events:

2026 Saturday Events			
31 <sup>st</sup> January	Craster/Low Newton	18 <sup>th</sup> July	
28 <sup>th</sup> February	Osmotherly (NY Moors)	15 <sup>th</sup> August	
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Hadrian's Wall	5 <sup>th</sup> September	
25 <sup>th</sup> April	Yorkshire Dales	3 <sup>rd</sup> October	
23 <sup>rd</sup> May		31 <sup>st</sup> October	
20 <sup>th</sup> June		28 <sup>th</sup> November	

2 Sunday Events - none proposed.

3 Patterdale Week [14th March 2026 for 7 nights] - Anne Marie Forster, Neil Waite, Ian Goodman, Natalie Goodman, Lynn Boyle, Liz Beech, Lucy Topping, John Costello, Ronnie Willison & Lynn Ford will be spending 7 nights in Drey & Hollow Lodges at a cost of £137.50 per member. This 300-acre private estate is located in the breath-taking Ullswater valley, wrapped around the southern tip of Ullswater, England's most beautiful lake. Ideally located at the foot of some of Lakeland's most magnificent and scenic mountains (Place Fell, St Sunday Crag, Helvellyn, High Street) and, at the same time, for exploring by car the whole of the Lake District as it is within a short drive of Penrith, Keswick, Windermere, Ambleside, Bowness and Kendal.

4 Scottish Week Trip - Oban [Sat 9th May 2026 for 7 nights] - Cologin Farmhouse, recently accredited with a Silver Green Tourism Award for their sustainable practices and values, is a spacious traditional farmhouse. With a Cold Water Therapy Barrel and a Scandinavian wood fired Hot Tub from where you can enjoy some star gazing, a large south facing enclosed garden and patio there is space for everyone. The house is situated in the scenic Lerags Glen ensuring peace and privacy but is still less than 3 miles from the vibrant harbour town of Oban, with views across open farmland and walks from the door. The Barn, a rustic pub with plenty of character is nearby and is a good place to catch up over a drink and tasty local fare following the days adventures. Ellen Morrison, Mike Morrison, Lynn Ford, Ronnie Willison, Ian Storey, Jean Walker, Steve Walker, John Costello, Lucy Topping & Malcolm McVey will be staying in Cologin Farmhouse at a cost of £236.50 per member (inclusive of a refundable £20 breakage deposit).

5 Weekend Events – none proposed.

6 Evening Walks – none proposed.

## 10 Any other Business:

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