

A General Meeting will be held in St Mary's Church, Felling, NE10 0PA on Thursday 17th September 2026, commencing at 6:30pm in order to consider the Dissolution of Gateshead Civic Walking Club.

AGENDA

① Appointment of Chairperson:

② Apologies for Absence [3]: Ania Retkowska (Assistant Secretary), Roger Smith (Committee), Helen Mullarkey.

③ Approval of the Minutes of the SGM held 5th March 2026 (See *copy below*).



④ 2026/2027 Secretary's Report: (see *copy below*).

④ ① Matters Arising

⑤ Consideration of Motion for the Dissolution of Gateshead Civic Walking Club [must be approved by 75% majority of combined present and postal votes tendered].

Context: Due to rising transport costs, the Club Committee recommends the formal closure of the club.

⑤ ① Proposal: *"To approve the dissolution of the Gateshead Civic Walking Club in accordance with the Club Constitution, with the Club Committee proceeding to realise all club property and discharge all financial liabilities."*

• [] **AGREE** to the dissolution of the club

• [] **REJECT** the dissolution of the club



⑥ Consideration of Asset Distribution Motions received by 31st August 2026 [simple majority of combined present and postal votes tendered - will only be validated if Motion ⑤ ① is successfully carried].

⑥ ① Allocation of Funds - Tyneside Outdoors:

Context: Proposed by Graeme. This charity meets the constitutional requirement of sharing similar Aims and Objectives to encourage outdoor participation.

Proposal: *"To approve a fixed donation of £2,000 from the remaining club funds to TynesideOutdoors (Registered Charity No. 1156445)."*

• [] **AGREE** to the £2,000 donation.

• [] **REJECT** the £2,000 donation.



Why Members Should Vote **AGREE to Donate £2,000 to TynesideOutdoors (Charity No. 1156445):**

- **Direct Alignment with Club Objectives:** Our constitution explicitly states our goal is to *"encourage and enable members to participate in hill-walking events."* TynesideOutdoors works directly within our community to get people outdoors, run local walking programmes, and improve fitness and accessibility, ensuring our club's legacy lives on through a shared mission.
- **Keeping Funds in the Local Community:** Unlike regional mountain rescue teams covering massive geographical areas, TynesideOutdoors focuses heavily on the local Tyneside and Gateshead areas. Voting for this donation ensures that the financial assets built up by our local members are directly reinvested into improving outdoor access in our immediate community.
- **Supporting Inclusion and Transport Relief:** Our constitution highlights a commitment to helping those *"totally reliant on public transport to participate."* TynesideOutdoors actively works with disadvantaged groups, young people, and individuals who face socio-economic barriers to accessing the countryside, directly carrying forward our club's values of inclusive transport and outdoor equity.

- **Direct Accountability via a Fixed Amount:** Because this proposal specifies a clear, fixed amount of **£2,000**, members know exactly how much money is being pledged, providing total financial transparency for this portion of our remaining assets.

6 2 Allocation of Funds - Additional Mountain Rescue Teams

Context: Proposed by Natalie. This motion authorizes the Committee to distribute an equitable share of remaining funds to these regional rescue teams. Exact amounts will be finalized by the Committee depending on total remaining assets after liabilities and Motion 6 1 (if passed) are cleared.

Proposal: "To approve the donation of a portion of remaining club funds to **Northumberland Mountain Rescue** (Charity No. 1189987), **Cleveland Mountain Rescue** (Charity No. 252905), and **Yorkshire Dales Mountain Rescue** (Charity No. 1201870)."

- [] **AGREE** to include these three rescue teams in the donation distribution.
- [] **REJECT** including these three rescue teams (unallocated funds default entirely to LDSAMRA).



Why Members Should Vote **AGREE** to Include Regional Mountain Rescue Teams:

- **Direct Safety Support for Hill-Walkers:** Our club's core objective is to enable members to participate in hill-walking events. Mountain rescue teams provide an essential, life-saving service that directly protects and supports the safety of hill-walkers, hikers, and outdoor enthusiasts in the rugged terrains our club has frequented.
- **Encompassing Our Core Walking Venues:** While Club transport departs from the Civic Centre, our actual walking venues span across the North of England. By including **Northumberland Mountain Rescue**, **Cleveland Mountain Rescue**, and **Yorkshire Dales Mountain Rescue**, we ensure our club's assets support the volunteer emergency services covering the exact hills and national parks where our members have walked for years.
- **A Fair Regional Distribution:** Our constitution automatically designates the Lake District Search and Mountain Rescue Association (LDSAMRA - Charity No. 1191015) as the default beneficiary. Voting "**Agree**" to this motion allows us to expand that footprint, ensuring we do not overlook the equally vital, 100% volunteer-led rescue teams operating in our neighbouring northern regions.
- **Committee Discretion for Financial Flexibility:** Because the total remaining funds cannot be known until all Club liabilities are cleared, leaving the donation amounts flexible is a responsible approach. This motion empowers the Club Committee to evaluate the final balance and distribute the funds equitably among these teams, rather than forcing a rigid financial commitment.

7 Any other Business:

- 7 1 Club Website Domain Registration - Archived routes
- 7 2 Walking Friends WhatsApp Group. Route Sharing App. Car-Sharing.
- 7 3 Guide Books, Maps & Ice Axes
- 7 4 Durham Heritage 100
- 7 5
- 7 6.
- 7 7
- 7 8
- 7 9
- 7 10

Minutes of the Special General Meeting held in the Lamesley Room, Civic Centre on 5th March, 2026

Present [9]: Margaret Andison, Evelyn Brown (Committee) Alf Cowell, Patricia McCahill, Graeme Page (Secretary), Ania Retkowska (Assistant Secretary), Ian Storey (Committee), Ian Thomson & Ronnie Willison.

Quorum: As less than 10 members were in attendance, the meeting was inquorate. Fortunately, the receipt of 8 postal votes enabled a limited number of agenda items to be voted on.

Appointment of Chairperson - Ian Storey kindly **AGREED** to chair the meeting.

Apologies for Absence [19] - Anne Beryl, Lyn Boyle, Jane Brough, Denise Edwardson, Cath Fatkin, Lynn Ford, Anne Marie Forster, Natalie Goodman, Carol Lonsdale, Andy McGinley, Josie McGinley, Ken Milmore, Ellen Morrison, Mike Morrison, Kevin Nelson, Hedley Oliver, Alan Ross, Roger Smith & Ian Thompson.

Constitution – After discussion, acceptance of the revised Club Constitution was unanimously (16 votes) **AGREED**. After discussion, Margaret Andison's proposal to **DELETE** Club Constitution Rule 6.3.2 "*If instalment facilities are required in respect of a Club organised week or weekend event, a £5 per participant administration fee will be levied*" was **REJECTED** by 8 votes to 7.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2025 AGM - the minutes of the AGM were unanimously (17 votes) **AGREED** as being a correct record.

Appointment of the 2026 Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Committee - It was unanimously (17 votes) **AGREED** to appoint the following Officers & Committee members:

2026/27 Committee		
Officers		Other Members
Secretary	Graeme Page (until 30 th April 2026)	Evelyn Brown
		Lynn Ford
		Anne Marie Forster
Assistant Secretary	Ania Retkowska	Graeme Page (from 1 st May 2026)
		Roger Smith
		Ian Storey

Motions Submitted & Received by the Due Date (19th February 2026):

- ➊ After discussion, the Committee proposal "*to increase the minibus fare from £22 to £33 (minibus will only be used if all 16 seats are booked) [no subsidy]*" was **REJECTED** by 14 votes to 3;
- ➋ After discussion, the Committee proposal "*to increase the minibus fare from £22 to £30 (minibus will only be used if at least 14 seats are booked) [maximum of £125 subsidy per event]*" was **AGREED** by 15 votes to 2;
- ➌ After discussion, Graeme's proposal "*to donate £1000 to the Lake District Search and Mountain Rescue Association (LDSAMRA)*" was **REJECTED** by 11 votes to 6;
- ➍ After discussion, the Committee proposal "*to donate £500 to the Lake District Search and Mountain Rescue Association (LDSAMRA)*" was **AGREED** by 10 votes to 6;
- ➎ After discussion, Graeme's proposal "*to donate £100 to the North East Search and Rescue Association (NESRA)*" was **AGREED** by 16 votes to 1;
- ➏ After discussion, Margaret's proposal "*to donate £100 to the Northumberland National Park Mountain Rescue Team*" was **AGREED** by 11 votes to 4;
- ➐ After discussion, Margaret's proposal "*to donate £100 to the Teesdale & Weardale Search and Rescue Team*" was **REJECTED** by 8 votes to 7.

Secretary's 2026 Report - Graeme presented a written report and Statement of Accounts to the meeting indicating that:

There had been 2 x 'local' car-sharing Saturday events so far in 2026;

The Club now had **£3523.79** which represented a £702.60 loss over the course of 2026;

Graeme was indebted to Ania Retkowska (Assistant Secretary) and the Club Committee members for their ongoing individual and collective contribution towards the organisation of Club events and activities;

Finally, he thanked the membership as a whole for their continued support of the Club in 2026 and confirmed that he intended stepping down from the Club's Secretary position on 30th April 2026. As the meeting was inquorate, a vote of thanks could not be made.

2026/27 Calendar of Events -

🔴 2026/27 Saturday Events (A Denton Travel minibus may be used for the June, July & September events.)			
31 st January	Craster/Low Newton	18 th July	
28 th February	Osmotherly (NY Moors)	15 th August	
28 th March	Hadrian's Wall	5 th September	
25 th April		3 rd October	
23 rd May		31 st October	
20 th June		28 th November	

❷ Patterdale Week [14th March 2026 for 7 nights] - Lynn Boyle, Liz Beech, John Costello, Lynn Ford, Paul Gertig Ian Goodman, Natalie Goodman, Lucy Topping & Ronnie Willison spent an enjoyable week in Drey & Hollow Lodges at a cost of £126.00 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. As the meeting was inquorate, a vote of thanks could not be made to Lynn for organising this event.

❸ 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 spent an enjoyable week in Cologin Farmhouse at a cost of £217 per member. As the meeting was inquorate, a vote of thanks could not be made to Lynn for organising this event.

Any other Business: As the meeting was inquorate, no decisions could be made regarding the following AOB matters:

- ❶ **Walking Routes** - Encourage members to suggest and submit walks including routes, maps and timings. Encourage use of GPS and route-finding Apps i.e. Komoot (free version). Graeme had been creating and circulating GPX files in respect of currently suggested 2026 routes (rather than use printed maps). No routes have currently been suggested in respect of the majority of Saturday events.
- ❷ **Walk 'Leaders'** - Indemnity insurance limitations/restrictions may require potential 'leaders' to be adequately trained.
- ❸ **Sharing Car Fuel Costs** - Volunteer drivers asked to fill up before the walk and again after the walk, then share the cost of petrol plus parking fee with those in their car (what about electric vehicles?).
- ❹ **Booking System** - The email booking system will remain in place for now but we will look at introducing switching to other approved electronic communication system(s). Committee to continue to explore other methods bearing in mind those who do not have access to WhatsApp etc.
- ❺ **Sunday Events** - As David Ellerington has regretfully decided to step down from organising Sunday walks these events are likely not to continue. However, Club members could arrange Sunday walks on an informal basis (e.g. via WhatsApp).
- ❻ **Tech/Social Media** - The Club will explore more use of tech/social media for promotion, organisation and bookings.
- ❼ **Navigation Skills** - The Club will explore offering informal and formal means of map reading training for new and inexperienced members. Arrange map reading/route finding walks on a Saturday for members to practice new and old skills.
- ❽ **Informal Weekend Events** - The Club will explore having more weekend events, which could be organised on a less formal basis.
- ❾ **Social Events** - a volunteer(s) is required to organise social events going forwards.

Secretary's Report

Leyburn (Yorkshire Dales [Saturday 25th April 2026]) - The suggested 11.8-mile **BLACK** walk (with 735ft of ascent) visits one of the highlights of the area at Castle Bolton. A shorter route of 9.7 miles returning from Redmire. The walk starts in Leyburn and heads west along the Leyburn Shawl Walk to Preston-under-Scar then on to the historic 14th century Castle Bolton. Heading south east to the village of Redmire then on to Wensley and back to Leyburn. Dek Parmley & Ken Johnson kindly volunteered to use their cars in order to transport Evelyn Brown, Roger Smith, Kevin Nelson, Cath Fatkin & Anne Beryl to Leyburn.



Scottish Trip - Oban [Sat 9th to 16th May 2026] - 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 spent an enjoyable week in Cologin Farmhouse at a cost of £217 per member.



Income	£	Expenditure	£
10 @ £217	2170.00	Accommodation	2065.00
Total Income	2170.00	Total Expenditure	2065.00

Craster/Low Newton [Saturday 31st August] - There is a huge variety of wildlife on this suggested 8½ mile (with 112ft of ascent) **BLACK** coastal walk such as seals offshore, rafts of eider ducks, seabird nesting cliffs, a good variety of waders, rock-pool life, fresh water pools at Newton with breeding warblers and ducks, diverse insect life and many types of wild flowers. This is a real walk of two halves with coastal grasslands on the walk to Dunstanburgh Castle giving way to a magnificent sweep of beach at Embleton Bay leading to Newton. The best things about this walk are the iconic ruins of the castle, the Ship Inn at Low Newton and the seabird cliffs at Dunstanburgh Castle, that are best viewed from the beach. There really is something new every time you walk this exciting route. 25 past & present members met up in Craster to participate in this event in memory of both Hedley Oliver & Anne Marie Forster.



Income & Expenditure as at 31 st August 2026			
Income	£	Expenditure	£
Leyburn 25 th April	0.00	Leyburn 25 th April	0.00
Oban Week 9 th to 16 th May	2170.00	Oban Week 9 th to 16 th May	2065.00
Membership 45 @ £5	225.00	Gateshead Foodbank Donation	50.00
		St Mary's Church Donation (Hedley)	50.00
		Funeral Posy (Hedley)	45.00
		Marie Currie Donation (Anne Marie)	100.00
Total Income	2395.00	Total Expenditure	2310.00

2026		£
Total Income		2395.00
Less Total Expenditure		2310.00
Profit		85.00

Finances - As you will see from the above, your Club made an operating profit of **£85** during the period 1st April to 31st August 2026. When added to the £3523.79 balance carried forwards from 31st March 2026, this means that the Club now has £3608.79.

Graeme Page
Club Committee Member
31/08/2026