

MILEATERS AGM 6TH FEBRUARY 2026
held in Martinstown Village Hall.

Nick Priddle welcomed all especially those attending their first Mileaters AGM -Jason Butler, Sally and Mike Bradshaw. Pat Knight will act as minute secretary.

1. Apologies. Ian and Jennie Jones, Gerald Duke, Jo Lacy-Smith, Malcolm Pusey, Martin and Sheree Fitzgerald, Cathie Seigal, Lesley Pemberton, Barbara and David Haslam, Laura and Riou Baxter, Linda Scotts and Arend Vast, Nicky Butler.

2. Minutes of last AGM. These have been distributed. Proposed by Angie Schulke, seconded by Tom Webb, all agreed.

3. Matters arising. None.

4. Review of 2025 Walking year. This was another successful year, and despite everything we actually had no cancellations. The average numbers were down in 2025 at fifteen per walk but overall membership remains at a good level. The maximum number on a walk was twenty one which happened on several occasions.

A big thank you to all of our leaders.

5. 2026 programme. The programme has been distributed. Some of the cards have a couple of errors but these have been manually amended. Leaders unavailability has been accommodated but if you find that your allotted fortnight is not convenient please arrange a swap and let Nick know.

Angela Barrett has kindly printed the programmes but she would now like to step down from this role. Sally Webb volunteered to take on this task.

A couple of the usual reminders – please pay drivers a contribution towards petrol costs: drivers do not like to have to ask. Also, if leaders could try to accommodate a shorter option (say three and a half miles) in their circuits where possible, it would be appreciated by those seeking a less energetic distance.

Like last year, thank you to Sue and Stuart Nuttall for picking up the first walk of the new calendar having drawn the short straw for the second year running.

6. Mileaters on Tour. We all enjoyed our trip to Stockbridge in what turned out to be the best weather of the year. Numbers were a little lower than in previous years with a few late cancellations. This was probably just as well as the dining room would have been a little cramped otherwise. Cuckoos, red kites, bluebells, old railways, fine river scenery, old hill forts and some excellent pubs were some of the attractions.

This year Frances and Rollo Clifford are taking us down to Exmouth. All the best rooms sold out immediately. A sample menu has been sent out. Frances updated the meeting that twenty eight people are going to Exmouth. About half replied regarding the draft three day menu so it is assumed that others are happy with the suggested options. A deposit will be requested soon. Be aware that there is very little hotel parking.

Lastly, a volunteer was needed for the 2027 holiday. Rosie and Gerald Duke have volunteered. There is a possible venue in the Mendip area. Thank you for offering to organise this. Phil and Roelie Newman had offered to be backstop.

7. Walk reports – webpage and V & V Magazine. Please could leaders continue to write a short report about their walks. Mark Pemberton has set us up a page on the Village Hall site as the village website is no more. Please send you reports to Nick, together with any photographs and he will endeavour to update the webpage and will forward onto Pompee at the Valley and Valence magazine.

8. A.O.B.

a) Car sharing. There have been a few instances where there has been a shortage of cars prior to departing for the start of walks. It is really down to the walk leaders to put a note out, perhaps the day before, to say how many cars are needed as the leaders will know the number of walkers and those staying for lunch.

b) Thank you to Angela for the programmes, Celia for co-ordinating the food, Frances for collecting the £1.50's, Pat for dealing with the minutes and to all who have provided a veritable feast for tonight.

Tom gave a vote of thanks to Nick for his work co-ordinating the Mileaters.

9. Date of next AGM – Friday 5th February 2027 in the Village Hall.