



WESTHILL WALKERS

1988-2018



HISTORY

March 2018 saw a milestone in the history of the Westhill Walkers – our 30th anniversary and we have a few club members that are still with us since those early days. Credit for the idea lies with Elsie Duncan, who sadly passed away in 2006 aged over 90. In February 1988 she and a couple of friends advertised a meeting in order to form a walking club. About a dozen turned up and a committee was formed to organize a further public meeting. That meeting was at Westhill Academy on 17 March 1988, and a walk was organized for the following Sunday. There were 50 names on the original attendance list and it was agreed to form ourselves as an affiliate of the Ramblers Association.

Our first walk was arranged for Sunday 20th March 1988 and was a five mile circuit of Westhill via Scattiebrae, Kinmundy and Brodiach. Before the walk commenced there was a group photo taken by the *Press & Journal* which appeared in the edition of Monday 21st March. At least a dozen in that picture were appearing regularly on walks ten years later. Our second walk was more adventurous, to Glen Tanar. We rapidly raised our sights and in that first season, as well as some easy walks, we tackled Easter Balmoral to Loch Muick, Lochnagar, Clochnaben and the Lairig Ghru.



**Jim Middleton, our first
chairman**

**25th anniversary celebrations
2013**

By the time of the first AGM on 19 October 1988 we had 92 members. Our walks are more adventurous these days but we still offer three grades of walks, easy, moderate and strenuous. In 1989 we had our first weekend away. These weekends have become an integral part of the club calendar and have included trips to Skye, Arran and Mull as well as the Western and NW Highlands. We have active walking and social committees who put together our programme for the year.

In 1998 the first of our quarterly newsletters was issued, which has become bigger, brighter and more informative over the past 20 years. The newsletter contains many items of interest from the world of walking, news items, club photographs from our walks and general club notices. In November 2013 we celebrated our 25th anniversary with a gathering at the Atholl Hotel.

In 2015 the Westhill Walkers became members of the Westhill & District Community Sports HUB (WDCSH). The hub has achieved Sports Scotland Community Sport Hub status and aims to bring the community together and provide pathways of opportunities as well as information, advice and support on Sport & Leisure in the local area.

In 2018 we celebrated our 30th anniversary at Westhill Golf Course.