

**Bristol Ramblers Annual General Meeting  
Held at the Redland Park United Reformed Church, Redland Park on 6  
December 2011**

Attendance 38

**1 Chair's welcome**

The Chair (Peter Gould) welcomed all who were present, noted that nine apologies had been received, and thanked those who had made the arrangements for the meeting and the 'ploughman's lunch style' refreshments.

**2 Minutes of the previous AGM**

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record. There were no matters arising that were not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

**3 Annual Report and Accounts 2010/11**

**3.1 Walks programme**

The Secretary (Carew Reynell) noted that there were few if any other groups that ran such an extensive and varied programme, and that 2010/11 had been another good year. Members had nominated some memorable walks:

- Muddiest – Carew's Wetmoor walk;
- Windiest – Stephen Draper's Beacons walk;
- Wettest – Nigel Andrews' West Somerset Railway walk;
- Largest number of walkers 'lost' – Keith Budd's Lansdown walk.

Other walks had been suggested as memorable for other reasons (for example, Nigel's Gower walk and Tony Kerr's Blorengel walk).

Thanks were due to all walk leaders. Those who had led the most walks during the year were: Gwyneth Littlejohn, Neil Burlton, Dan Evans, Nigel Andrews, Julie Boston and Peter Gould. Gwyneth, Nigel and Peter were present to receive certificates of thanks.

A walk leader training course had taken place, and had been completed by six members.

For 2011/12, it was intended to continue with Sunday half-day walks and to include some longer evening walks in the programme. Members were invited to suggest possible developments to members of the Committee.

**3.2 Footpath matters**

The Chair commented that the Council had made progress, legal and practical, on some new paths. He also noted with pleasure that during the year Keith Budd had come forward to take on the Footpaths Officer role.

Keith explained that he was assembling a group of people willing to assist in footpath clearance work, but that it was pleasing to note that prompt work by the Council limited the need for such work. He invited volunteers for this group.

He also noted that the Area Committee was considering the establishment of a group to be trained and equipped for more major works, but that this was still 'work in progress'.

### **3.3 Planning and Environment matters**

The Chair commented that Susan Carter was undertaking the work of Planning and Environment Officer with great knowledge and patience. She had, on the Group's behalf, commented on a wide range of proposals from the Council.

### **3.4 Membership and publicity**

The Membership Secretary (Angela Stansbie) noted that membership continued to decline, although there is always a margin of uncertainty about numbers because of delays in payment of subscriptions, etc. Eileen Bartlett explained that a survey of lapsed members had been undertaken. This indicated that lack of money, time or health were the principal reasons for leaving: there is not a lot that the Group can do about any of these.

The Chair said that, on John Maher's sad demise, he had taken over management of the website as an interim measure. He had found the website to be classically correct. Tony Kerr and Tony Parson had been of great assistance. Tony Kerr asked members to submit more photographs of B, C and evening walks.

Members were also asked to let the Committee know if they would be willing to respond at short notice to requests for interviews from the media.

### **3.5 Annual accounts**

The Treasurer (Pauline Platts) reported that the Group currently has healthy balances, and that the bids for funding for 2010/11 and 2011/12 had both been approved in full. Savings had been achieved by moving to a four month programme, hand delivering a substantial proportion of programmes, and introducing the eBoot.

In response to a question, she explained that the current banking arrangements (with Unity Bank) were beneficial to the Ramblers nationally so it was intended to continue with them, despite the low level of interest being earned on balances.

She also reported that the Area Committee would be undertaking a prize draw for three months, as an incentive for electronic circulation of programmes, etc.

**3.6** The Annual Report and Accounts were **approved** (proposed Stephen Draper, seconded Patsy Hudson).

## **4 Possible activities for 2011/12**

The Secretary invited members to let the Committee know if there were things that they thought the Group should be doing. Suggestions had included:

- Walks programme: some longer evening walks; occasional use of coaches for distant A/B walks; more group trips (long weekends?);
- Other activities: monthly social evenings; occasional social events; footpath clearance and signage;

- Wider community: support for Active Bristol/Get Walking, Keep Walking; support for the Council's Walking Strategy; support for national Ramblers Campaigns.

## **5 Election of Committee for 2011/12**

The following were elected unopposed:

- Chair – Carew Reynell (proposed Peter Gould, seconded Nigel Andrews)
- Secretary – Stephen Draper (proposed Carew Reynell, seconded Eileen Bartlett)
- Treasurer – Pauline Platts (proposed David Stansbie, seconded Eileen Bartlett)
- Minutes Secretary – Tony Parsons (proposed Keith Budd, seconded Tony Kerr)
- Membership Secretary – Eileen Bartlett (proposed Angela Stansbie, seconded Pauline Platts)
- Programme Secretary – Tony Parsons (proposed Nigel Andrews, seconded Carew Reynell)
- Footpaths Officer – Keith Budd (proposed Peter Gould, seconded David Stansbie)
- Panning and Environment Officer – Susan Carter (proposed John Wrigley, seconded Eileen Bartlett)
- Committee – Tony Wood (proposed Gwyneth Littlejohn, seconded Stephen Draper)

Members who might be interested in joining the Committee in future were invited to attend a Committee meeting to observe proceedings.

## **6 Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Keith Jones was reappointed (proposed John Wrigley, seconded Tony Carter)

## **7 Donations**

It was agreed to donate £75 to Longtown Mountain Rescue (proposed John Wrigley, seconded Nigel Andrews). No other donations were proposed.

**8** At the close of the meeting, John Wrigley proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Chair for his many services to the Group over many years. This was agreed with enthusiasm.