

# THE BOOT

## The Bristol Ramblers' Newsletter

### No 57 January 2011



### **Paper and Electric Boots**

Welcome to the final edition of the (paper) Boot. The Group's AGM in December decided that we should replace the Boot with an electronic newsletter. Some of you will now have received the January edition of the Electric Boot.

The principal reason for the change is that an electronic newsletter has the potential to be a more frequent and more flexible means of communication within the Group. The intention is that it will be produced monthly, and will cover local walks, events and socials, footpath matters, planning and environment issues, and national Ramblers business.

It will be cheaper to produce and distribute than the (paper) Boot, but this was not the principal consideration, as the Group's finances are healthy and would probably have continued to be so without the change.

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Details of Group trips will continue to be published in the Programme no later than they appear in the newsletter. There will also be space in the Programme for headline news items.

If you are not already receiving the Electric Boot and would like to receive it and the Programme electronically, number to **BristolRAIT@aol.com**. There is also a link on the Group's website.

## **The AGM**

The Group's AGM took place on an icy 7 December. 33 people braved the arctic conditions, and enjoyed 'quality nibbles' and wine. The papers for the AGM (Annual Report, Accounts, etc), and the minutes, are on the website.

At the meeting, certificates of thanks were presented to:

- Neil Burlton, for his outstanding contribution to walking in Bristol over the years. Neil has now stood down from the committee, but will still be undertaking highly-valued project work
- Clive Richardson, for his seven and a half years coordinating the Sunday B and C walks. The programme has thrived during his watch
- John Maher, who came to our rescue and redeveloped the Group's website in 2010.

We are grateful to all of them, and to many others.

The Annual Report sets out some highlights of the year: our biggest ever walks programme (280 walks) and some wonderful trips; extensive activity relating to footpaths and rights of way, and to planning and environment issues; and some other campaigning activity.

Angela Stansbie reported that the Group's membership is 908. On the face of it, this is 6% below last year, but some of the reduction arises from a change in the way in which the count is undertaken. A lot is being done to try to attract new members.

Pauline Platts reported that the Group's finances are considerably healthier than anticipated.

As noted above, the meeting agreed that the paper Boot should be transformed into an electronic newsletter. The walks programme was also discussed, and it was agreed that we should organize some half-day Sunday walks this summer, on a trial basis.

The 2009/10 committee was reelected, with the exception of Neil Burlton who stood down after many years of service. There are, however, a number of vacancies:

- It was agreed that it would be a good idea if the Group could do some practical work of footpath maintenance and improvement. Hitherto, the local authorities have been a bit reticent, but for a variety of reasons this seems to be changing, and the North Somerset Group now has a weekly work detail. We desperately need someone who would, with some support, be willing to coordinate this. Would you be willing to volunteer? If so, please contact Peter Gould ([petergould18@aol.com](mailto:petergould18@aol.com))

- If you could help on publicity, preparing and distributing material for the press, libraries, etc., please contact Carew Reynell (carew.reynell@gmail.com);
- If you would be willing to lead a Sunday half-day walk (morning or afternoon) sometime in the summer, please contact Tony Parsons (tonyparsons3@hotmail.co.uk);
- A number of members are now helping with the hand delivery of programmes, saving on postage costs and thus maximizing the resources that we can allocate for other purposes. And enjoying some urban exploration into the bargain. Further volunteers would be welcome, particularly for the BS9 area. If you could help, please contact Carew (carew.reynell@gmail.com).

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