

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE RAMBLERS'  
ASSOCIATION GEDLING & DUKERIES GROUP ON SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2017  
AT 1400 IN LOWDHAM VILLAGE HALL**

<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b> Jonathan Ankers	Mick Rawdin	Malcolm Costello
Alan Johnston	Alex McGowan	Peter Dawson
Barbara Shillito	George Wood	Dianne Maloney
John Crofts	Felicity Crofts	Chris Large
Val Disney	Brian Torr	Pat Hilliard
Colleen Pilgrim	Derek Baker	Pat Rogers
Heather Darwent	Marlene Smalley	Dorothy Marshall
David Branston	Jim Norris	Liz Pritchett
Kath Ford	June Goddard	Graham Dicker
Barry Warner	Diane Smith	Neil Radford
Cliff Hamilton	Stella Hamilton	
Denise Widdowson	Brenda Draper	Bryan Goddard
Julie Najuk	Carol Hill	J Booth
Aubrey Gamble	Ann Staples	S A Dicker

**1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

The chairman welcomed everyone and expressed good wishes to Peter Dawson on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**2 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from: Pam Footitt, Nick Hill, Gay Wood, Brian O'Neill, Margaret Moore and Jacky Knight.

**3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2016 were available to read.

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were passed as a true record.

Proposed: Chris Large                      Seconded: Felicity Crofts

**4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

None

**5 ANNUAL REPORTS**

**5.1 Chairman**

As explained in my report for the current walks programme, this will be my last agm as chairman. I was elected to this role at the November 2012 agm and I consider after five years in the role it is time for me to vacate my seat and for someone else to take over. I would like to thank all the committee members for giving up their time over the past twelve months to attend committee meetings and to discuss the many issues that face not only our group but the Ramblers on a national basis.

Our group membership continues to fall despite the best efforts of Malcolm, our Publicity Officer and Val our Membership Secretary. Over the past twelve months the group has had publicity stalls at Go Outdoors on two occasions and Rufford Park but without any noticeable increase in membership.

The Group's walk programme continues to attract a varied amount of walks and again a thank you to our Group's coordinators, Alex, Pat and Pam plus all the walks leaders, who continue to put in the hours checking out and leading their walk. Can I also thank Brian for producing the two walks programmes well within the timescale to get the programmes out to our members in time.

Then, there is Pat, our Social Secretary, and her role in arranging the annual dinner and the various raffles which, over the year, make a profit towards supporting Group funds. Jim, our Area Liaison Officer, is the Group's link to Area Council. So, Jim can bring to our committee meetings what is happening at Area level.

Heather has recently taken over as coach secretary and arranged the trip to Skegness this year. The trip was a success so well done Heather!

The Group's website is used not only by our Group but is a very useful tool for other group members to check our walks programme and decide if they want to come on one of our led walks A thank you to Graham for maintaining the website.

Can I also thank Brian for his two roles. He is the Group Footpath Officer and, in these difficult times of cut backs at the Rights of Way Department at County Hall, he is our link to report path problems. Brian, for as long as I have been a member of the Group, has taken on the role of Treasurer. This is a special thank you to Brian for all the hard work he has put in over the years.

Nearly there! A thank you to Liz and George as committee members who contribute to the meetings; offering their opinions, and finally a big thank you to Jonathan, the Group Secretary. Jonathan takes the committee minutes, prepares the agenda for Group meetings and also for today's agm. He also reports any news and developments from Ramblers HQ.

You will see from today's agenda that there are two topics to discuss and I hope these items will generate some opinions from the members attending the meeting.

Today is your chance to give your opinion on how the Group is run and is your chance to have your say.

## **5.2 Treasurer**

The accounts have been returned to the Area Treasurer but there has been no response to date. I assume he has now sent them to Head Office. The balance at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 was £629.27 (£857.88 2016) which is in line with the Unity bank statement. The coach trip was again successful, fully booked and showing a profit of £90. The coach fare is based on filling 39 seats, so further seats filled give a profit. This helps to cover printing and postage for the programmes.

The Area grant totalled £318.68.

Copies of the annual return are available for members to examine..

## **5.3 Footpaths**

There have been no major footpath problems reported, although on recent walks there was evidence of landowners diverting paths for their own purposes.

## **5.4 Membership**

Membership for the group at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 was 211. This is down by 25 for the same period last year, when the number was 236.

2016/17:

3 new members

1 member reinstated  
 28 members no longer in the group  
 13 notified Central Office of their resignation  
 1 of which has transferred to another group  
 14 memberships lapsed without notification or response to correspondence  
 2 deceased

#### NUMBER OF MEMBERS ATTACHED TO THE GROUP

30<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Total	211
Annual Individual	122
Annual Joint	82
Life Individual	5
Life Joint	2
Payments Pending	2
Members no longer in the group	3
New Members	0
Members Reinstated	0

#### TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP TO MANSFIELD GROUP

Prior to stepping down as Area Secretary, Jenny Fillingham requested Central Office transfer from Gedling & Dukeries Group (NE09) to Mansfield Group (NE10), the postcodes that will be effected. To date this has not happened and is something that Central Office, IT and Membership staff are working on. I understand that Central Office are currently working on reverting back to the old system of Parish's for allocating new applicants to groups.

The Group has 10 members that would be effected by the transfer. These members have been contacted to ask if they wish their membership to be transferred or remain with the Gedling & Dukeries Group.

2 have stated clearly that they wish to remain in the Gedling Group

4 did not reply.

1 wishes to transfer.

3 happy either way

Mrs E. Wright was contacted and did wish to remain with the Gedling & Dukeries group.

Sadly, Eileen has passed away recently.

#### Membership Fees

Membership fees increased from 1st October 2017 as follows

Individual	from	£34.50	to	£35.00
Individual (Cons)		£20.50		
Individual Life	from	£752.00	to	£770.00
Individual Life (Cons)	"	£364.00	to	£460.00
Joint Life		£950.00		
Joint Life (Cons)	from	£446.00	to	£465.00
Joint Life (monthly)		£4.25		
Joint Life (Cons) (monthly)		£2.75		
Individual (monthly)		£3.25		
Individual (Cons) (monthly)		£2.25		
Joint (annual)	from	£45.50	to	£46.50
Joint (Cons) (annual)	"	£27.50	to	£27.50

\*Concessionary rates only apply to members that are full time Students, solely reliant on State Pension or on means tested benefits.

Life Membership Concessions are for Members over 60.

### 5.5 **Area**

One aspect of being the Gedling and Dukeries representative on the Nottinghamshire Area Council is that I submit a Report to each Council Meeting on behalf of our Group. This contains matters of interest and concern which are specific to our interests. It also shares our activities highlights of our activities. The Council Meetings are attended by representatives of the other Local Groups so, apart from the formal aspects of the Council's business, it has a function of enabling the sharing of information of common interest.

The Council has a key function in dealing with matters relating to the Ramblers hierarchy and also handles strategic matters at County level. Matters which are discussed range from cycling on footpaths, the inadequacies of the County Council's handling of footpath maintenance, fracking, encroachment into the Countryside, HS2 and proposed closure of level crossings. Over the course of this year the matter of most interest to Gedling and Dukeries was the court case relating to footpath from Burton Road to Stoke Bardolph. In the end this application was lost on all counts but the fact that the Ramblers was prepared to pay a 6 figure sum in costs shows both the advantages of being part of a large organisation and also the level of commitment of the Ramblers to fighting to protect us from the threat of footpaths across level crossings being closed

As your representative on the Council I also take part in some of its functions. During this year I was elected as both the Vice Chair of the Council and the Area Countryside Officer. This role of Countryside Officer might be best understood by seeing the Footpaths Officer as being concerned with getting from A to B and the Countryside Officer being concerned with what is at A and B.

In last year's Report I mentioned that Keith Wallace had become Chairman. Unfortunately he felt himself unable to complete the full year. Martin Gawith has now taken over as Chair.

The Area Council is continually open to thoughts about how it might do its business better. The meeting in July 2017 looked at a number of options, having first sought the views of the Local Groups including Gedling and Dukeries. The format will be:

There will continue to be 4 meetings per year

The first part of each meeting will be the administrative part and will cover the Officers Reports. The Officers will answer any questions and add anything new that has arisen. There will be a networking session

There will then be a specific topic. This might be subjects such as: Network Rail and level crossings; membership and recruitment; walk programme production walking for health etc.

For the first time since anyone can remember there are no Fillinghams on the Area Council. This has proved to be a difficult hurdle for the Council to cross but it is just about coping.

Once again Gedling and Dukeries members are reminded that if they have any issue they wish raised directly with the Area Council or any views on the policies of the Ramblers Association they are more than welcome to contact me at any time.

### 5.6 **Coach**

During the last year we only had one coach trip, to Skegness. A lovely walk and day out despite the rain! It was well supported by the members and all costs were covered.

For the next year we have two confirmed days out:

May 6<sup>th</sup>: A trip to Hunstanton with a coastal walk from Thornham back to Hunstanton organised by Polly, George and myself.

July 15<sup>th</sup>: A coastal walk to Whitby (fish and chips!) from the Ravenscar direction, organised by Malcolm and Margaret.

I will obtain costings and start collecting names and money in the New Year.

### 5.7 **Web**

During the last year no significant changes were made to the web site. It continues to work well and, as far as I am aware, adequately serves the requirements of the group.

### 5.8 **Social**

Our Christmas walk and fuddle in December last was well attended. We made enough money from the raffle to pay for the hall. As we had so many prizes last year and the raffle took so long I will not be asking for any unwanted items this year but will purchase prizes myself.

Our charity collection made £30. This was sent to the "Notts. And Lincs. Air ambulance."

In May we had our annual dinner which was attended by 40 people. I think everyone enjoyed it and the entertainment by Trevor Lee and his Ukulele.

We are having a change of venue for our annual dinner 2018.

Our bus trip to Skegness raffle made £24. This money will go towards purchasing raffle prizes.

Christmas fuddle prizes are all in hand.

The annual dinner will be at the Mapperley Golf Club in 2018.

### 5.9 **Walks Programme**

Brian O'Neill not present.

### 5.10 **B Walks**

1) I have had a good response from our walks leaders, which has enabled the group to fill the Sept 2017 to Feb 2018 programme, which is now in print.

2) The new walk dates for March 2018 to August 2018 are now available.

I also wish to thank all our leaders for their efforts.

## **6 ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE**

The following were elected unanimously: Brian Torr (Treasurer and Footpath), Graham Dicker (Web), George Wood, Jim Norris (Area), Jonathan Ankers (Secretary), Brian O'Neill (Walks programme), Julie Najuk (Membership), Pat Rogers (Social), Heather Darwent (Coach), Malcolm Costello (Publicity), Alex McGowan and Liz Pritchett. The positions of Chairman and Countryside remain vacant.

## **7 CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS**

There was a motion to remove "Dukeries" from the Group's name. There were speeches on both sides of the argument, including a plea from Aubrey to keep the name alive. It was

explained that the postcodes for new members had already transferred to Mansfield & Sherwood. **The motion was carried.**

There was a motion to split the Sunday 10 mile walks according to pace and terrain. This developed into a motion to reclassify the Sunday walks A, B, C & D. Alex, for example wanted the choice of a less demanding Sunday walk. **The motion was carried.**

There was a motion to hold the fuddle after the agm in future to stop people enjoying the fuddle then leaving before the meeting started. **The motion was defeated.**

## **8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Malcolm appealed for members to put leaflets in public places.

Alex asked for Gedling Group badges to be made available and a brass plaque to be attached to the Dorkett Head trig point.

Service presentations were made to Val Disney and Mick Rawdin.

There being no other business the meeting closed at **1528.**