

MINUTES OF THE GEDLING & DUKERIES GROUP RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 2ND MARCH 2017 AT 7.30PM IN THE MEETING ROOM RICHARD HERROD CENTRE

PRESENT:

Mick Rawdin	Val Disney	Jonathan Ankers
Brian Torr	Graham Dicker	Liz Pritchett
Malcolm Costello	George Wood	Pat Rogers

APOLOGIES: Heather Darwent, Jim Norris, Brian O'Neill.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record.

Proposed Graham Dicker, seconded George Wood, and passed.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

JRA to contact Pam Footitt to book Woodborough Village Hall for the fuddle on 10/12/2017.

Whether we keep the Dukeries name is to be decided at our next agm.

The Chris Thompson walks did make it into our programme.

The Margaret Meadows history walk on 7/6/2017 is in the programme.

JRA to check the Lowdham Village Hall agm booking.

Ramblers car stickers were circulated.

3. MEMBER'S REPORTS

Chairman's Report

I spoke to Alex Staniforth at the Area AGM. It was a decision of the members of the Mansfield & Sherwood Group at their AGM not to take the Dukeries name. Only new members covered by the postal codes of that area will join the group. Alex did also confirm that no pressure was put on the members of the group by committee members. So, as a group, we have a choice as I have followed up from our last meeting and we as a group can decide the following:

1 - Do we as a group wish to keep the Dukeries name -so the name will not be lost forever

or

2 - Lose the Dukeries name from our letterhead and revert back to Gedling Ramblers.

Whichever decision we make will be taken by a vote at our next AGM by the members of the group .

Area AGM - I have attached my bullet points from the meeting and we can discuss any issues when we come to the AOB entry.

Letter received from Ann Staples -she does not want to re-join the committee although we can co-opt one new member per year according to our constitution. I have replied to Ann's

letter thanking her again for her loyal service to the committee and group over the past years.

I spoke to Jenny Fillingham after the Area AGM. When the visitors centre opens on Gedling Country Park there may be an invite for our group to have a publicity stand at the event – Jenny will let me know when the opening day is announced.

Just for the record – a planning application has been submitted to build 32 houses at the rear of Brookfields Garden Centre – should not affect the ROW at Crawford Rise.

Secretary's Report

1. There is a RA campaign to stop or at least slow down Network Rail's plan to close railway crossing points countrywide. There is a link on the RA website to sign a petition.
2. Grab amazing discounts in our Ramblers Shop while stocks last. Save up to 40% on t-shirts, fleeces and other Ramblers products in our biggest ever sale.
3. Ramblers Roadshow. Learn more about our organisation and vision, what we do as a charity and the impact that we make, and get the chance to develop your skills and knowledge as a walker or as a Ramblers volunteer.
4. There had been correspondence about planned walks and facilities at the Springwater Golf Club.

Treasurer's Report

Balance £676.30. The committee room hire charges were rising to £10 p.h. from 1/4/2017.

Walks Programme Editor

Not present.

Footpaths Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

Membership Secretary's Report

31st March 2017

Total	227
Annual Individual	125
Annual Joint	95
Life Individual	5
Life Joint	2
Payments Pending	4
Members no longer in the group	1
New Members	0
Members Reinstated	0

Social Sub Committee Report

41 people had booked for the annual dinner. £50 was payable to the ukulele player, Trevor Lee.

Coach Secretary's Report

There were still ten places available on the Skegness coach on Sunday 23rd.July.

Publicity

Flyers had been left at walks locations, posters displayed in doctors' surgeries.

Arnold Carnival is 17/18/6. Malcolm will attend unless a risk assessment proves too onerous. He will need a table.

Report by Val Disney:

Rufford Park Saturday 6th May 2017 discussed – Val to confirm booking with Linda Hardy. Val, Malcolm & Mick to run. I have met with Linda Hardy at Rufford, with a view to having a space in which to have a stand to promote Gedling & Dukeries Ramblers. We have been offered the Seminar Room, should the weather be good, or just outside, the Seminar Room, to the right of after the first archway, in the Stable Block. There is also a possibility of using the marquee if the weather is good and has not been booked. This would be in the Courtyard, to the left after the second archway. Between 11.00am and 3pm peak visitor time. Setting up at 10.30am. There is no charge for this, as Linda and I had been in contact prior to the takeover of Parkwood Leisure. In future there will be a charge of 50.

Go Outdoors I have emailed Natalie with a view to having floorspace sometime in April (still awaiting a reply) Discussed – April **agreed**

Ultimate Outdoors Castle Meadows Retail Park I met with spoken to Ross Porter, Manager with a view to having floor space. I just need to give a date when we would like to attend (Discussed – **agreed** June). There would be no charge. We would have a site, at the front of the store, between the in and out door. Near to outdoor clothing.

Arnold Carnival I have passed the booking information to Malcolm. (Rod, Jenny and Alex not to keen on doing this venue) I don't think it would be necessary to have as many people involved in manning the stand as we did at the Go Outdoors event in November. Maybe 3 people would be sufficient. (Discussed and agreed, will call upon past volunteers if required.

Gedling Show. There is no Gedling Show this Year. This event is to move to the Gedling Country Park 2018.

Val Disney

There is also a roadshow in Woodhouse, Leicestershire. **GD to post on the website.**

Area Liaison Officer's Report

Notes taken by Mick Rawdin at the agm:

The meeting was poorly attended -I would say between 45-50 members present . Keith Wallace the subject of this investigation now being undertaken by Ramblers HQ was not present at the meeting and no discussion was allowed about the subject. The report is due to be published within a month.

Miner2 Major Project – Presented by Becky Howey from Nottinghamshire County Council.

Project is looking after Sherwood Forest- partly dependant on Lottery Funding .The project aims to get interested groups together to preserve the area and to make the most of the natural enviroment- ie landscape / heritage / Forestry Commission and where the Ramblers could be involved -ie Rights of Way .

Paddy Tipping

Mentioned again the reduced budget for R.O. W. Team .He did suggest that if a prospective candidate knocks on your door in respect of this year's elections -mention the reduced budget and what are their views.

Fracking in Nottinghamshire -Clumber Park now a possible site targeted by Ineos Shale- part of the Ineos Group. Thoresby Estate own a lot of land in North Nottinghamshire and may well be against fracking .

Jack Prust- Area Accounts / Budget.

The area has a surplus due to underspend on projects. Smaller budget applied for this year so as to use up last year's surplus. Area accounts have been audited and agreed.

Stephen Parkhouse

Spoke about The Sherwood Forest -Archaeological Way. A total of £6000.00 is required for a new R.O.W-forming a direct link between Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire. Who will fund - Notts County Council / Ramblers / Members? The current path is in a poor state and liable to flooding . The length of the path is 2.5 km. This will be a Bridleway -so cyclists / horesriders / possibly off roaders could use the Bridleway. So discussion suggested joint funding by all possible users -not just the Ramblers stumping up the money.

Stephen also asked for members to submit articles for the next edition of Notts Walker (now only available on line).

Speaker number two - from Buckinghamshire Area.

Discussed 20/30 walking groups with his own experience of joining a 20/30 walking group.

Ramblers vision for the UK. How to get people walking as 9 million state they regularly walk but why do they not join the Ramblers -is it the age barrier?

Walking for Health Groups. Making walking easier for the not so able by replacing stiles with gates.

Big Pathwatch 2016 was a big success- over 5000 paths blocked by crops. Improved waymarking .

Ongoing projects - The Coastal Path access.

Walking for Health -linked to Macmillan Health-Ramblers trying to get a walk every day for the less able of not more than 90 minutes .

Volunteer Awards - to long serving members -groups to nominate.

Meeting started at 2pm and even with two speakers finished at 4pm .

Next year's Area AGM will be hosted by the Ravenshead & Hucknall Group on Sunday 4th. February 2018. Location to be confirmed at a later date.

Webmaster's Report

The site is attacked by hackers from time to time, so far unsuccessfully. However, this activity does leave some mess to clean up in terms of directories.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. The vacancies at Area level were a worry.
2. Parking/Meeting Locations – Sunday 'B' Walks

Would it be possible for Walk Leaders to avoid using public houses that are reliant on Sunday trade for their business, as parking for walks. It is unfair for a group to take up parking from 9.34am (approx) to 3.00pm (approx). The time period covers peak time for these places.

If members of the public are wishing to visit these venues for a meal and turn up only to find the car park is full, they will not go inside as they think the place is busy, when in fact this is not the case.

Some walkers also use toilet facilities but do not make any purchase.

A small number of walkers will go in and have a drink after the walk.

A few members tell me they do not attend these walks. I for one avoid them.

If leaders ask permission to park they should speak with a Manager/ess and not speak with bar staff. Its perhaps a good idea for them to enter the date into their diary and leave your contact details, also ring a couple of weeks before the walk as a reminder and to check that this arrangement is still in order, especially as walks are planned many months in advance.

Parking in pub car parks for Sunday walks is not the same as for the Thursday walks.

This is happening more often and very rarely happened in the past. There are one or two walks in the new programme that potentially there could be an issue.

This does not look good for the Group.

Could Leaders also be mindful of parking outside of churches, particularly in small villages, where parking is limited.

Some churches have services on a rota basis, check to see if that is likely to fall on the day you propose to do the walk.

- Be respectful and consider others.
- Encourage car sharing, even if it is a local walk.

Val Disney. GD to post on the website.

The meeting closed at 2035.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 4th May 2017.