

Stoke Lodge Ramblers

Minutes of 34th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at St Mary's Church Hall, Mariners Drive, Stoke Bishop on Saturday 29th October, 2016 at 7pm

Present:	Chairman	David McGregor
	Treasurer	Sue Hazelden
	Secretary	Margaret Ruse
	Committee	Liz Hall
		Helen Palmer
		Lorna Renshaw

There was an attendance of 41 Members (plus 6 Committee Members).

1. **Apologies were received from:** Gill Dunphy (Committee); Cyril Crepin; Val McLennan; Dorothy Nunn; Malcolm and Beryl Read; Toby and Sue O'Hara; Janet and Derek Edwards; Alison Shaw; Jillie Fry; Joyce Lance; Marion and Reg Biles.
2. **The minutes of the 33rd AGM** held on 31st October 2015 were read, approved, and signed as a true record.
Proposer: Sue Hazelden; Seconder: Lorna Renshaw.
3. **Matters Arising:**
At the last AGM, Dorothy Nunn was elected to the Committee. Sadly, due to a period of ill health, Dorothy needed to stand down shortly afterwards and Gill Dunphy volunteered to take her place.
4. **Chairman's Report** (David McGregor)
David gave a summary of Neville Brewis's report (full report on the website), since Neville and Felicity had moved to London during the summer and the committee had appointed David McGregor as interim Chairman from then until the AGM. The main headlines were:
 - a) A summary of the main events of the year:
 - i. Christmas walks and lunch at Kendleshire Golf Club, organised by Gordon and Wendy Wise;
 - ii. New Year's Day walk and lunch at the Rudgeleigh Inn, Pill, organised by Liz Hall and Sue O'Hara;
 - iii. 'Hamlet' at the Tobacco Factory in the spring;
 - iv. The Spring Social with speaker Richard Cornock, aka 'The Funky Farmer';
 - v. Summer Outing to Stonehenge and Salisbury;
 - vi. The Club weekend at St Ives;
 - vii. 'Don Giovanni' at the Tobacco Factory in October.

- b) David wished to record his thanks to all walk leaders for an excellent and varied programme over the past year; to Margaret Ruse for co-ordination of the walks programme and to Don Walter for most of the short walks organisation.
- c) Challenges ahead:
The Brewises will be sadly missed, following their huge contribution to the life of Stoke Lodge Ramblers over some 8 years or so, not least in website development and the editing of the Newsletter.

Therefore, there are some very large tasks to be undertaken and it is probably unreasonable to expect any one person or even the same few people to take on the full load. While the Committee remains very active and has played a major part in the organisation of many aspects of club activities, we do need others to take on some responsibilities and play an active part in the following areas:

- Walk Leadership, particularly leading short walks;
- The Newsletter, 'hard copies' Winter and Summer; online version Spring and Autumn;
- Weekend away: volunteer/s needed to take this on and to liaise with Secret Hills Walking;
- Summer Outing, although the Committee have decided that the form of this will need to change since for the last several years the coach trip has not been well supported and risks running at a financial loss;
- Social Events e.g. theatre trips;
- A Membership Drive – only 5 new members in the past year and our demographic means that numbers leaving are greater than that.

The Chairman suggested a 10 minute Plenary / discussion time for members to talk with those around them to come up with some suggestions and, possibly, volunteers to meet some of the above 'challenges'.

5. Treasurer's Report (Sue Hazelden – full report can be found on the website)

The audited accounts for 2015-16 were tabled, audited and signed by Gill Carter, our Honorary Auditor.

Adoption of the accounts: these were adopted unanimously by those present.

In summary, we end the year with a healthy bank balance again, although membership has dropped and stood at 107 at the end of the year.

It is recommended that the membership subscription should remain at £8 per annum for the time being.

6. Auditor's Report (Gill Carter)

Gill gave a positive endorsement of Sue Hazelden's report and accounts.

7. Walks Coordinator's Report (Margaret Ruse – full report can be found on the website)

Margaret gave an overview of another year of varied and enjoyable walks, thanks to all our walk leaders. Since the last AGM, we have produced a programme of 22 Sunday walks, 12 medium Thursday walks and 10 short Thursday walks – not counting Christmas, New Year's Day, summer coach outing and St Ives weekend – some 300 miles of walks.

Last winter's extremely wet weather brought its own difficulties but only one walk (planned for the Wye Valley) had to be abandoned.

My thanks to Don, without whom the short walk programme would hardly exist.

As last year, I appeal especially to our newer members to come forward to lead some walks, perhaps with a partner.

A floral tribute was presented to Rosanne Carwardine in recognition of her invaluable contribution to the organisation of club activities for several years.

8. Election of Committee Members

The present Committee have all indicated that they are willing to stand for re-election. A show of hands approved them unanimously.

Election of new Committee Members:

Gill Dunphy: Proposer: Margaret Ruse. Seconder: David McGregor

Sara Willmott: Proposer: David Mc Gregor. Seconder: Margaret Ruse

Approved unanimously.

The re-appointment of all existing officers was approved unanimously, including the endorsement of David McGregor as Chairman.

9. Re-appointment of the Honorary Auditor, Gill Carter

Gill is willing to continue in this role. A unanimous show of hands was taken as endorsement.

10. Future weekends away 2017 and 2018

Having requested feedback about the St Ives weekend, David McGregor outlined the current proposals for the next 2 years:

2017: a provisional booking has been made with Secret Hills Walking for Crickhowell, Friday 13th – Monday 16th October. Further details should be available to be sent out with the next walks programme early in December.

2018: A booking has been made, via Secret Hills, for Willesley Castle, Derbyshire (one of the same Christian Guild Group of hotels as we stayed in at St Ives) from Friday 30th September – Monday 2nd October.

We need one or two people to volunteer to coordinate the bookings for each of these and to liaise with Secret Hills, preferably individuals who will be there.

11. Any Other Business

- a) Sue Hazelden wished to highlight the further development of the website, which she and Sue O'Hara are doing, following all Neville's good work. Please look at it regularly and check it for updates and late changes, especially about walks.
- b) Lorna Renshaw wished to draw attention to the Christmas lunch on Thursday 8th December. There are still places but bookings need to be made soon.
- c) Don Walter wished to record his thanks to the Committee and to all walk leaders.

The business Meeting closed at 8.00 pm. An American supper followed.

Margaret Ruse
(Secretary)
8th November 2016