

Stoke Lodge Ramblers AGM Saturday 28th October 2017

7.00pm Highgrove Church Hall

Notes from the meeting: 39 members present

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Lorna and Andy Renshaw, Margaret Ruse, Dorothy Nunn, Neville Brewis, Steve Day, Dick and Jenny Dennett, Alison Shaw, Melisa Jermin, Kelvin Roynon, Gordon and Jean Clarke, Cyril Crepin, John and Marjorie Salisbury, Sue O'Hara

Welcome new members Sue Haslington, Terry Jones, John and Gloria Isaacs, Christine Moore, Helen Mumford, Roger Harvey, Carol Ann Rogers

Sadly the year has been diminished by the deaths of several members of the club. Helen has given some details in the latest newsletter but we shared a few moments remembering:

Don Walter	Chris Tellam	David Legg
Peter Bartlett	Jean Sutcliffe	

Many members attended their funerals and heard of their remarkable lives and the club joined in a round of applause for the loyal members who gave so much to Stoke Lodge Ramblers.

- 2. Minutes of 34th AGM on 29th October 2016 had been circulated with additional copies in the room;**

2.1 Accuracy: the minutes were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed Gill Garter	Seconded Christine Moore
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- 3. Matters Arising:** All matters were covered in the main agenda and therefore there were no matters arising

- 4. Stoke Lodge Ramblers Chairman's Report 2016-17**

First a massive thank you to the committee members and walks leaders who have worked so hard to keep the club as an effective walking and social community.

David made reference in last year's AGM to 'Challenges Ahead' asking for volunteers to take on additional tasks to make the club even more successful – examples of this engagement are:

The excellent newsletter edited by Helen Palmer has been a real success; Helen and Gill Dunphy's support in organising the Crickhowell weekend; Gordon and Wendy's input to the very successful summer outing to Fladbury; social events including Sara Wilmott's Othello visit, the innovation from Pat and Lilo of the quarterly lunches, together with the Arnos Vale visit organised by Margaret have been notable successes; and together with Sue O'Hara and Sue Hazelden's website developments these have moved us strongly forward. The one area we continue to need your support is in attracting new members, and next year's challenge from me is that **every member introduce a new member in the coming year** – word of mouth and a trial run are the best ways of attracting newcomers.

Xmas meal and walk – December 8th 2016: this was excellently organised by Lorna Renshaw in the Avon Gorge Hotel with walk leaders of Margaret, Lorna and Jenny. We look forward to this year's meal organised by Liz Hall in Cameley Lodge and urge all to return forms, meal choices and payments to her today.

The New Year's Day walk was based on the Old Royal Ship in Luckington and thanks were given to Dick and Jenny for organising this.

Our Spring Social: Peter Davey gave us a very informative talk on the Clifton Rocks railway in April. Thanks were given to Roseanne for organising this event.

Annual autumn weekend in Crickhowell 14-16 October 2017: 30 walkers stayed at the Manor Hotel for 3 nights with Secret Hills organising the event and all walks. As usual Alan Garner and his team organised excellent walks catering for all abilities, from walks along the Usk Way Path

Walks during the year have taken walkers to enjoy the beauties of Exmoor, the Quantocks, the Mendips and the Somerset coast; to various points in the Cotswolds from Guiting Power in the north to Castle Combe in the south; and to points along the Severn Estuary. The scope of our walks should remind us just how fortunate we are to live where we do.

Margaret urges us all to continue to support the Walks Programme in every way we can but, especially, by doing our best to lead walks suitable to your experience and fitness, either on your own or with someone else. Sara Willmott is taking on the Coordinator's role for the time being. Please offer her your support.

With the passing of Don, the short walks programme may well find itself "in a state of change". Thanks go to Pat Walter and Lilo de Beaufort for instigating the quarterly lunches, which are providing a most enjoyable social contact for members and former members and indeed these may replace some of the short walks unless other leaders come forward. Please contact Lilo for details and reserve your place through her.

Margaret concluded with her best wishes for plenty of good walking in the coming year but, remember, the programme does not fill itself automatically. The Walks Programme is what we all make it.

5. Treasurer's report (full report can be found on the website)

Sue Hazelden presented her report which has been independently examined by Gill Carter. The meeting adopted the accounts. The year ended with a healthy closing balance of £2402.80.

In light of this positive bank Balance the Committee has decided to retain the membership as £8 per person per year.

6. Auditor's report:

Gill Carter reported the accounts appear in order and Gill was thanked for her independent examiners role.

The meeting elected Gill to be independent examiner for the coming year.

7. Walk Coordinator's Report included in item 4

- 8. Constitution:** the committee recommends a range of minor changes to the constitution and the revised version has been circulated to members. The minor changes are around length of service of committee members. Amendments were agreed to the length of service to the officers (4 years) and other minor changes.

The changes were proposed by David McGregor and seconded by Gill Carter.

The changes were agreed.

9. Election of the Committee.

Thanks were given to the outgoing Committee and in particular to Sue Hazelden and Margaret Ruse who may be changing roles depending on elections:

Election of officers. The following appointments were made

Officer			proposed by	seconded by
Chair		David McGregor	Liz Hall	Sara Wilmott
Secretary		Lorna Renshaw	David McGregor	Sara Wilmott
Walks Coordinator		Margaret Ruse (temporarily supported Sara Wilmott)	David McGregor	Helen Palmer
Treasurer		Liz Hall	Sue Hazelden	Gill Dunphy

Election of up to 5 Committee Members

Gill Dunphy proposed by David McGregor seconded Liz Hall, Sara Wilmott proposed by David McGregor seconded Helen Palmer, Helen Palmer proposed by David McGregor seconded Liz Hall, Sue Hazelden (Website) proposed by David McGregor seconded Liz Hall

All unanimously elected.

10. Future Events.

Annual away weekend Willesley Castle (Derbyshire) 28th September to 1st October 2018.

Suggestions for 2019 away weekend

Malvern Hills	18 (expressions of interest),
Brecon Beacons and Waterfall Country	15,
Sidmouth East Devon	20,
Shropshire Hills based on Shrewsbury	15,
Isle of Wight.	4 due to cost of ferry

New Year's Day walk at Royal Oak in Cromhall on 1 January 2018

Christmas 2018 December 13th in Shirehampton Golf Club.

11 AOB

Hilda said she was not a new member as had been with the club for two and a half years. She also wanted more info about the walk leaders meeting points. Gordon Wise said that the Grid Reference of car parks is given when the meeting place is not local.

Di from Secret Hills may be asked to select walks in the Forest of Dean where there are gaps in the walks programme.

Members were thanks for attending and providing food for the social.

Davina thanked the committee for all the work they had done throughout the year.

Meeting closed at 20.03.