

Stoke Lodge Ramblers AGM Saturday 26th October 2019.

7.00pm Stoke Bishop Village Hall.

David McGregor, Chair, welcomed 32 members (including Committee).

1. **Apologies for absence:** Alison Shaw, Carole Kluth, Gill and Steve Day, Andy and Lorna Renshaw, Gill Dunphy, Dick and Jenny Dennett, Rosanne Carwardine, Marwan Alkhalil, Suzanne Hadfield, Peter Doughty, Sue Haslingden, June Hall, Derek and Eddie Basden.

Welcome New members: Marwan Alkhalil, Carole Kluth, Ram and Frances Naidoo.

Memorial to **Jean Sutcliffe** is gate near Nympsfield (GR 801 003)where ashes are buried.

Other news of members included the sad news that **Anne Memery** has suffered a major setback after making good progress on her recovery from a stroke. Her cancer diagnosis was an awful shock to all and we wish Anne and Dave well for the future

2. **Minutes of 36th AGM** on 27th October 2018 have been circulated with additional copies in the room;
2.1 **Accuracy-** The Minutes were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting on a show of hands, with no objections.
3. **Matters Arising:** All matters are to be covered in the main agenda and there were no other matters arising

4. STOKE LODGE RAMBLERS CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018-19

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.

MEMBERSHIP: Numbers for last year were around the 65mark and we have XXX renewals to date this year. I remind everyone of the request I made last year for every member to make it a personal target to introduce at least one new member in the coming year.

WALKS LEADERS; Margaret will thank you in her report but the heart of the club is its leaders who tirelessly walk out routes and lead us to places new. The Committee and walks leaders have implemented the guide for new walks leaders and a reminder it is available on the website and we have published a list of suggestions for those new to membership to remind us all of how we should prepare for walks and therefore support our valiant band of leaders

One important point is the danger of animals in fields and the importance of never walking between cows and calves, or having dog with you in the field and taking preventative action. (For example, over the past year, Lorna's broken ankle and Sue Hazelden's sister seriously injured by cattle). Please see Ramblers website for advice re managing animals on walks.

WEBSITE - thanks to Sue and Sue for maintaining this vital communication, particularly for uploading photos and advice on walks.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PAST YEAR (summarised in finance report)

The Christmas Meal Long Ashton Golf Course superbly organised by Hilda Ball, supported by walks leaders was felt to be so good we have booked again this Christmas and Hilda has booking forms for you to complete today.

New Year's Walk from The Swan at Tockington was a great success and at least pub was open this time.

Spring Social: Excellent talk from Prof Michael Danson talked of travels in Antarctica- visiting Scott and Shackleton bases and the biology of very low temperatures.

HOLT FARM May 19 Sara Willmott organised a well- attended visit to gardens of Yeo Valley farm to admire grasses and have convivial lunch.

29 June OXFORD Trip by train where some 30 members had great day out thanks to Andy Renshaw's leadership supported by Christine Moore's walk leadership. With temperatures in 30s we all struggled with heat but loved the visit.

September Wraxall Vineyard visit in good weather thanks to Gill Dunphy for organising.

Shrewsbury Away weekend at end September -32 members attended staying in town centre at the Lion Hotel. Gordon and Wendy suffered the trauma of a collapsed ceiling in their room (fortunately they were not in the room at the time). Otherwise, the weekend was a great success. The walks were outstanding and we were blessed by weather which was much better than was forecast. A great weekend's walking with excellent walk leaders.

Quarterly Lunches at Hunters Cafe. Thanks to Pat Walter and Lilo de Beaufort. Lilo wants to give up organisation of these lunches but Pat has kindly volunteered to take this on.

Tree- contribution to reduce impact of climate change we have sponsored a tree on Trymside Open Space near Sue Hazelden's house and we hope to be invited to the planting event where a plaque will be installed. *Populus nigra Italica*- black poplar.

Proposed Training Evening (for Leaders and potential Leaders) in November, announced in Newsletter, has been postponed and will probably take place in the New Year.

5. **Treasurers Report:** Given by Liz Hall (available in hard copy and on website). Our finances are in good health. Annual subscription to remain at £8pp. Liz reminded all members that banks are now charging for processing cheques. She requested that, wherever possible, all payments to SLR should be made via inline banking.
6. **Auditors Report:** Gill Carter. Gill endorsed the Treasurer's Report, stating that SLR is in a healthy financial state and our finances in good hands.

The Chairman proposed that we accept the Treasurer's and the Auditor's reports, with thanks to Liz and Gill. There being no questions on the reports, they were accepted by a show of hands of those present.

7. Walks Co-ordinators report from Margaret Ruse (available on website).

In theory, this was the last report from Margaret as, according to our revised Constitution, she should step down as Walks Co-ordinator.

The Chairman thanked Margaret for her work as Walks Co-ordinator, stating that we all owe her a great debt for her organisational skills.

SLIDE 6 OFFICERS

8. Election of the Committee.

Election of officers. The following appointments confirmed

Officer			proposed by	seconded by
Chair		David McGregor	Sue Hazelden	Liz Hall
Secretary		Lorna Renshaw	David McGregor	Margaret Ruse
Walks Coordinator		Margaret Ruse, there being no other volunteers !	David McGregor	A show of hands from the Meeting.
Treasurer		Liz Hall	David McGregor	Sue Hazelden

Re-Election of Committee Members

Sara Wilmott , Sue Hazelden and Andy Renshaw proposed by David McGregor and all re-elected en bloc by a show of hands from those present.

Election of New Committee Members

3 New Nominations were received before the Meeting :

Suzanne Hadfield, proposed by Liz Hall, seconded by Davina MacRae;

Sue Haslingden, proposed by Sara Willmott, seconded by Sue O'Hara;

Sue O'Hara, proposed by Liz Hall, seconded by Hilda Ball.

SLIDE 7 Future

9. Future Events.

Xmas meal and walk –12th December Long Ashton Golf Course – book through Hilda Ball.

New Years Day The Swan Tytherington, bookings via Sue Hazelden. Gordon and Wendy Wise have offered to lead a walk before lunch for those who wish.

Spring Talk and date of Spring Social not yet confirmed but Bristol Ornithologists are putting up a speaker

Summer Outing proposed as - Train visit to Paignton organised by Andy Renshaw with a possible steam train ride.

Autumn Away Walking to Isle of Purbeck . As discussed with Alan Garner of Secret Hills Walking, during our weekend at Shrewsbury, he is finding it increasingly difficult to make bookings for groups over weekend (apparently this is a national trend, possibly resulting from more couples wishing to take "staycations" in picturesque areas of the UK).

Therefore, from now onwards, SLR trips are likely to be from Sunday to Wednesday or Thursday. The proposed dates for the Isle of Purbeck in 2020 are:

Sunday 27th September 2020—Wednesday 30th September 2020, plus the option of an additional night.

The hotel which Secret Hills uses in Swanage, Pines Hotel, is one of their most expensive:

£110 per night plus single supplement of £15 per night for sole occupancy of twin room. (2 single rooms)

As usual, Secret Hills will be offering us a choice of 3 walks each day.

AGM in October 2020

2020 Christmas Lunch Venue and volunteers to plan...

2021 autumn away few days proposal, discussed with Secret Hills, is the Gower (Wales Coast Path, Gower Way, Rhossilli Beach and Worms Head). Dates to be fixed but , again, likely to be in late September and from Sunday to Wednesday or Thursday.

10. AOB

- a) Sue O'Hara proposed that our meeting time for mid-week walks (at Cross Elms Lane) should be 9.30, (not 10) as it is at weekends. This proposal seemed to meet with general approval from those present. It was agreed to start this from the beginning of January 2020.
- b) Thanks from the floor to David McGregor, as Chairman, for all he has done and continues to do for the Club.
- c) Sue Hazelden has bought " From Brycgstow to Bristol in 45 Bridges" by Jeff Lucas & Thilo Gross. Sue suggests that it could be used as the basis for local linear walks, especially during the winter months when some hard-surface walking may be welcome.
- d) Helen Palmer stated that she is standing down from producing the Newsletter. Helen made a plea for someone else to take this on.
- e) Davina MacRae said that she understands that Ken and Christine Mewes will not be renewing their membership this year. She asks that the Committee should send

them a "Thank You" card for all their years of support and service, not least Christine's years as Treasurer. **Action Committee at next Committee Meeting.**

AND FINALLY..

THANK YOU all for the support you have offered the club over the last year

Do Not FORGET- Sign up to lead walks on the next programme.

Christmas Lunch –menu and booking forms from Hilda.

If you have not already done so, Membership subscriptions are due—please see Liz Hall.

Lorna Renshaw, Secretary, (unable to be present)- requests you to add emails and mobile phone numbers to your Membership Renewal Forms. These details will only be shared with other members to allow communication around walks.

SLIDES showing during meal thanks to Gordon to remind us of walks over the last year.

Enjoy the meal! Thanks to all for bringing food.

The A.G.M concluded at 7.45p.m.

Margaret Ruse,

pp. Lorna Renshaw, Secretary.