

## MINUTES OF AGM THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2011

**Present:** Lynne Birch, Clare de Normanville, Griselda Gibson, Derrick Garside and Carol Wilkie, plus 8 members

### NEWS FROM THE CHAIR - CAROL

A busy year with membership topping 155 and continuing to grow. This year the group has made contact with Hants 40+ and One Step Walkers Group and organised a weekend away at Edale on August Bank Holiday weekend. Another weekend together to be arranged with them next year. Walking group stalls were set up at Western Park Fayre, Peace in the Park, Sheffield and Wirksworth Art's festival this year but they didn't help increase membership. Launched Family walks this year once a month and made links with Get Walking team who are publicising them. Group have taken part in many Rambler's events e.g. Walk in the Woods. The group has lead walks for Sheffield walking festival and Environmental Weeks. Displays have been put up in various libraries this year. A special mention to some of our members who walked the coast to coast this summer, giving the group 'street cred!'

Membership secretary – not had a person in place for the last 6 months due to personal commitments but thanks to Hils who did take on the role for quite a while. Still a concern that we do not get membership details from Head Office quick enough – details are passed down via Area. Hopefully a new membership secretary can chase up membership details so we get up to date details more quickly.

### SOCIAL SECRETARY – DEE

Another busy successful year with lots of members out and about socialising and attending walking weekends. All weekends sold out during the year. Several extra informal events organised using the message board e.g. camping few days in St Ives. Camping weekend in Dent attracted about 60+ members and despite the weather was a great success and will run next year. Lots of people book on meals and come along to pub meets – Dee feels alternating meal with pub meet works well. Several weekends away booked for next year and they will be advertised soon so members can put it in their diary but bookings will open on a particular day to make sure everyone is aware of when to book a place. Thanks to Dee for organising socials and weekends. Members are appreciative and some comment on the message board.

### WEB SITE EDITOR – CLARE

Launched the new look website complete with new logo and banner. A lot of hard work gone into the new fresher site – many thanks to Clare for her expertise, dedication and time. Thanks also to Mike Dibbs and Jenna Moran for designing the logo and banner. Website gets about 60 hits a day with walks page top of the list. Clare working on members/new members being able to contact the

group via the website. Clare mentioned number of photos and need for editing as we get duplicate shots and encouraging members to upload photos directly onto Facebook. Facebook launched this year but not many people signed up to it. Similarly the message board is also underused but we offer both to our members. Old photos – what do we do with them? Decision needed at next committee meeting.

Domain name need renewing on 6<sup>th</sup> November and website hosting needs to be paid soon. Clare enjoyed working on the website revamp this summer which did take a lot of time but all appreciate the results.

### **WALKS COORDINATOR – GRISELDA**

Massive thanks to our fantastic walk leaders who make the group because no walk leaders no group!

We now have about 34 walk leaders as we have recruited more this year which has enabled us to put on 3 walks a weekend and some evening walks in the summer months. Still offer a variety of walks and have had a few different walks eg Sheffield Wildlife Trust lead a butterfly spotting walk. Navigation courses still an area to investigate – Northern College has not produced a viable result – no-one at the college has all the information and even 20s/30s walking group are having problems arranging it – Carol will try to contact Ruth at 20s/30s for up to date info. A new member runs navigation courses and has offered us 2 free places so we can try it out. It is more expensive than Foothills.

Clare has offered to send walks to HO so they can go in walk finder on Ramblers web site. Texting walk leaders still to continue as our group likes this format. As we have a lot of new walk leaders we need to send out walk leader info (put on the agenda for next meeting). We are interested in finding out how many people are on walks so will ask walk leaders to let us know how many walkers they get on their walk (put on agenda for next meeting). Griselda doing a great job and particularly patient with walk leaders who have to change at the last minute and Griselda has to find a replacement.

### **TREASURER – LYNNE**

Treasurer's report sent into Area with annual accounts as it is our end of year 30<sup>th</sup> September. Full report is available for members if they wish to view it they just need to ask for a copy and we will send one out. Summary of report follows: funding for 2010-11 £80 for group plus 65p per member. Last year we had £161 and spent £164 on variety of things including business cards, website logo, website hosting, YHA membership etc. This year our allocation is £195 based on £85 plus 75p per member. During last year we had 4 weekends away and all places were sold out so we made a small surplus £207 which helps us with cash flow as we have booked accommodation for next May and needed to send half the money as a deposit. The bank balance is in credit but as mentioned above we need this to enable us to book accommodation. At Christmas last year we collected £63 from our members on two Christmas walks which was sent to Edale Mountain Rescue which we have supported since we set up the group. Big thanks to Lynne for keeping the books in order.

## QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS AT AGM

“HOW ARE WE MAKING OUR WALKS INCLUSIVE?”

Some of our walks have public transport links to them. We have set up a lift sharing section on the message board. We have introduced Family walks. We do have shorter half day walks.

## NEW COMMITTEE ELECTED

Massive thanks to committee members who are happy to take up their roles again, hip, hip, hooray!

A very warm welcome to our new committee member Sara – do you know what’s in store for you!!

- Chair - Carol Wilkie
- Treasurer - Lynne Birch
- Membership Secretary - Sara Collins
- Website editor - Clare de Normanville
- Social Secretary - Derrick Garside
- Walks coordinator - Griselda Gibson

## ACTION

- Copy of minutes to go to Area with details of new committee.
- Minutes to go on the website with a reminder to members in next Ramblins

*Minuted by Carol 6/10/11*