

Minutes

Sheffield 40's Walking Group AGM

17th November 2024 4pm

at the Bradfield School Rooms

1. Attendance

Committee members present:

Liz Sharp, Chair. Martin Wistow, Walks Coordinator. Mandy Kippax, Socials and weekends away coordinator. Lucia Contrino, Footpath Officer. Charlotte Cooper, Treasurer, Helen Lewin, Training coordinator and Tracey Reeve, Membership Secretary.

Also in attendance – Keith Hopkinson, Jim Bell, James Scott, Debbie Martin, Robert Burton, Rachel Von Graevenitz, Jean Billingham, Colin and Jane Percival, Vicki Faith, Michael Charters, Lyn Prosser, Sara Whitby, Anju Keetharuth, Liz Tomlin, Christine Smith, Jez Kenyon, Thea Anning, Raj Joshin and Julie Sweeting.

Apologies

Jim Conibear, Debbie Clark, Debs Cox, Dennis Crossland and Mick Nott

2. Chairs Report

Liz opened the meeting by welcoming and informing everyone that we have had another good year with a good number of walks and successful socials. The high point being the Coniston trip, where we had great weather and good walks.

Liz pointed out that we all have a mutual interest in walking and most of us do this because we enjoy walking with others rather than by ourselves. This gives us all a common ground.

For the committee there are choices and challenges and we have to think about the future, there are two sides to this. One where the group stays the same and the other where change occurs. A discussion on the groups name will take place later in meeting, (see point 13)

Liz advised that we should prepare for changes. For instance, our title says that we are in our 40's but this isn't true. We have a great website but we rely heavily on techy people to fix things and sort things for this website. To be prepared for the future we need to be ready to change.

It was advised that Sheffield Ramblers are struggling to find committee members and that they may fold in the next year or two. It might be that they amalgamate with our group.

We also face immediate challenges that we are struggling to find walk leaders to put on walks, particularly short walks, for which there is a demand but no leaders.

It was announced that Mandy is stepping down from social secretary and that this post is free. Liz advised that some committee jobs are bigger than others and thanks were given to the committee for their support over the year.

3. Approval of minutes of the Last AGM

Proposed by attendees and seconded by attendees as a true record of the last meeting.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

- a) End of Year Financial Position
- b) Financial outcomes of Group events
- c) Appointment of Independent Auditor

Charlie presented a detailed account of the reports for the year ending 30th September 2024. A copy of the reports can be found in the AGM folder and is available on the web site.

6. Secretary

Membership has fluctuated over the year. We currently stand at 317 members. Not all members of Ramblers who walk with us are affiliated with us.

We continue to welcome many new faces into our walking family, the Sheffield 40's.

7. Walks

Martin explained that he had introduced mid week walks this year. There had been some good turns outs.

The ratio of walks to the days are Monday 4, Tues 6, Wed 14, Thur 3, Friday none, Sat 54 and Sun 66 - Sunday being the most popular day.

Walk reports are not always submitted but the ones received, there have been no incidents. Our group have covered 1035 miles collectively over the year with a total of 147 walks.

Who has led the most walks?

6th Russ and Mandy

5th Mick

4th James

3rd Charlie

2nd Keith

1st Martin.

8 Socials and Weekends

Mandy advised that there have been 12 social events organised by the social committee. Many things including meals, parties, garden walks and beer festivals.

Summer social was cancelled due to not enough interest. Mandy and Lyn asked if members wanted to attend something to not wait until the last minute as we know numbers at least two weeks before to pass numbers onto the caterer. There have been 4 weekends away; Pickering, Coniston, Snowdonia and Kirby Stephen.

Mandy went on to advise that we are having a Christmas meal in December and no Christmas party has been planned. Only one event so far in 2025 Ibiza at Chatsworth.

Mandy thanked everyone who helped with Socials or had put an event on.

9. Footpath Officer report

Lucia explained that people are being encouraged to report path issues. She reminded us that there is a tab on the website to report any issues.

Sheff City council come to us about reported issues.

Asked if anyone interested in getting involved in reporting issues. Gave thanks to Peter Robinson, he monitors the waymarkers.

Asked if anyone wanted to get involved in the week in physical work on paths. Council will oversee what we are doing.

10. Web Coordinators Report

Keith explained that there have been problems with the website. The existing hosts stopped supporting the website, Keith has now moved this to another provider. There was also a problem with the version of software we were using but that has now been fixed.

The running of the website is to be handed over to Thea.

11. Committee Elections

Liz Sharp - Chair, re-elected

Lucia Contrino - Footpaths coordinator, re-elected

Helen Lewin - Training Coordinator, re-elected

Charlotte Cooper - Treasurer, re-elected

Christine Smith elected for Membership Secretary, Liz Sharp proposed, Tracey Reeve seconded.

Many Kippax - elected for Walk Coordinator, Liz Sharp proposed, Keith Hopkinson seconded

Vicki Faith offered to stand for Social secretary, she would like to speak with Mandy but if ok, will take the role. Liz proposed and Keith seconded.

Thea Anning - elected for Web Officer, Liz Sharp proposed, Mandy Kippax seconded.

13. Group Name Discussion

Liz asked if the group name should become 'Sheffield 40s +'? A round room discussion ensued where everyone had the chance to express their opinion about a name change.

It was explained that a name change would involve a change to our constitution. So, if we agreed to go forward, we would then need to take a name change to the Area, who would almost certainly agree it, and we would then need 66% of members present at a general meeting to vote to make a change.

Arguments to retain the name	Arguments to alter the name
We don't have a problem recruiting members for walks so why change our name.	Very few of us are not in our 40s so the name is a lie
	New / prospective members get put off by our name, for example, people in their 50s worrying that they are too old, or people coming to meet others in their 40s and finding that we have mis sold the group.
The group is aimed at people in their 40's, 50's and 60's and this is expressed on the website and facebook site. People need to read these.	People judge us by our name, so never get as far as reading what it says on these sites.
Calling ourselves 40s+ puts off people under 40	Calling ourselves 40s may ALSO puts off people under 40.
Other groups have changed their name and lost members	This is an issue which we will have to return to as we get older and if the Sheffield Ramblers merge with us.

A vote took place for whether we should pursue a name change.

15 voted for no change.

7 voted for change.

12. Any Other Business

Jean commented that the meeting room we had used for the meeting was too noisy. Also to remember two of our members who have been poorly. Wayne, and Anne.

Mandy asked people to send in walks.

Lucia reminded everyone that it is the Sheffield heritage fair in January and Ramblers will have a stand.

Meeting closed at 5.20pm