

Minutes of Ross on Wye and District Walking Group 35th AGM
Thursday March 28th 2019

<u>Agenda</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Action</u>
Apologies	<p>Pam and Chris Bartlett, Gill and Stuart Blows, Allison and Andrew Chalmers, Paula and Richard Czepek, Wahiba and Les Davis, Mary Hacker, Gill James, Carole and Tony Newport, John Pullen, Hilary and John Smart, Carol Wright, Jane Wright, Cindy Smith, Peter Gratton, Margaret Davies, Colin Sears.</p> <p>Welcome to the 35th AGM and thanks to Graham Brown for leading the pre AGM walk</p>	
Minutes of 34th AGM	<p>Proposed –Jean Harrision, seconded – Norman Pomfret Signed as correct. No matters arising.</p>	
Chairman's Report (Martin Hudson)	<p>The Chairman started by “blowing our own trumpet” as we have a great club with something for everyone, including walking, socialising, photography and holidays. We have got a bright future, with an influx of new, enthusiastic members, plus a positive and active committee. All that and a free lunch – things couldn't be much better!</p> <p>Looking back on the year, it has been most noteworthy for cycling accidents and the weather. Ellie, Harry, Robin and Esther had all come off their bikes during the year. You know it's safer on foot! Weather wise, we had a wonderful summer, dry autumn and mild winter. Sounds great for walking, but we did have to cancel some walks, not for rain, but for extreme heat on some days! Martin thanked all walk leaders and left further comment to the Walks Coordinator.</p> <p>On the socialising side, we had a great ceilidh last May, with Dick Brice calling and Graham and Pat catering. What a combination! Then in September. Harry marked his comeback from injury by arranging a barbecue at the Yew Tree pub. It was a glorious day and a great time was had by all. Next came the skittles evening and supper at the Walwyn Arms, perfectly arranged by Diane. It was as competitive and good fun as ever. Then we recently wrapped up the membership year with Graham's excellent quiz at Peterstow Church, accompanied by a generous ploughman's supper served by Pat. Grateful thanks to all for their efforts which are much appreciated.</p> <p>Sue would be commenting on the holiday arrangements, but Martin wished to register huge appreciation to John & Hilary, Stuart & Gill and the other walk leaders from the Chair for their superb organisation of our holiday at Church Stretton.</p> <p>Martin hoped that the committee would agree that meetings have gone smoothly, usually fuelled by cake and refreshments! The club elected a great bunch of people and he introduced them, for the benefit of any members who do not know them – Sue Edwards, Jan Lelievre, Ronnie & Bryan Bunting, Stuart Blows, David Egan and Sue Dowdeswell. Our main concern has been with filling the Walks Programme, which was not happening at times. After much discussion, with input from John Smart, we decided it would help if we delayed the submission deadline to the 15th of the month preceding the next bi-monthly programme. In addition we slightly modified the on-line submission form so that it can also be used to submit “Fill-in” walks at any time to fill gaps. Both of these are on a trial basis and Ronnie will tell us how they are going in her report.</p> <p>Other topics we have addressed include how to spend the Group's money to the benefit of members and the organisation. Sue will be able to tell you more about this in her report. Jan has been leading a review of our Guidance for Walks Leaders which will shortly replace the current one on the website. We hope it will help new aspiring walk leaders and remind the rest of us what we should be</p>	

	<p>doing! Harry Britten-Austin, John Smart and Martin carried out a review of the website and have attempted to rationalise the layout to make it more user friendly. Martin thanked David Mason for acting as our email circulator and Harry for being our webmaster.</p> <p>The Chairman ended with an appeal. One of the biggest problems for members planning walks is finding sufficient parking space. We can all help to make this problem easier by meeting at Wilton and car sharing, instead of going independently to the start point but, if you do go direct, please advise the leader of your intentions.</p> <p>Finally, Martin thanked all members for their support over the year.</p> <p>As mentioned earlier we had a most enjoyable Ceilidh last May organised by Martin. Nearly everybody danced at some point and Dick Brice did a great job separating some of us when we got into difficulties! As usual the food from Pat and Graham was delicious. We gave Jon Powell a donation of £60 towards the Hope foundation and still managed a profit of £96.50.</p> <p>In October 34 of us went to Church Stretton for the Walking Weekend at the Holiday Fellowship Hotel. We were very lucky with the weather and enjoyed some excellent walks. We had a very interesting talk from a lady working with the National Trust which owns a lot of Long Mynd. She explained how they work to preserve the landscape and the environment.</p> <p>After the bad weather in October 2017 we decided to change the timing of the Walking Weekend to the summer and we are looking forward to Dovedale this June.</p> <p>Sue emphasise the huge amount of effort and planning that goes into making these weekends a success and offered her own thanks to John and Hilary Smart for organising Church Stretton, also Stuart and Gill Blows and the walks leaders.</p> <p><u>GENERAL ACCOUNT</u></p> <p>The overall financial result was an income of £900 against an expenditure of £1086.53 resulting in a deficit of £186.53. The Committee has been aware for some time that we are generating a small profit every year so decided to make some extra expenditure this year. We purchased an OS Maps subscription for £100 and all members have access to this app. Also some identity key fobs for £23.99 and these will be handed out to members with their membership cards when they pay their subscription. Fobs should include details of your name, an emergency contact name and number and any necessary medical details to be used in the event of an accident. Fobs should be attached to rucksacks.</p> <p>Coffee has always been provided free at the AGMs but this year the Committee decided to fund the buffet lunch as well, to encourage members to attend.</p> <p>The current account stands at £3827.99. We have to deduct £363 held for the 2019 June Walking Weekend giving a final balance of £3464.99.</p> <p>The Committee proposed that we continue to have a flat rate membership fee of £5 per walking member and £2 for social members .</p> <p>Proposal agreed. Proposed - Gill Moxham. Seconded – Virginia Jensen.</p> <p>Members unanimously accepted the Treasurer’s report. Proposed – David Egan. Seconded – Chris James.</p> <p>A vote of thanks was given to Gill James for auditing the accounts. Gill agreed to audit the accounts again next year.</p>	
<p>Treasurer’s Report (Sue Edwards)</p>	<p>At the end of 2017/18 year we had 103 members. 2 members moved away and did not renew. We have welcomed 15 new members this year- 14 walking and 1 social, giving us a total of 116 members.</p> <p>Harry Britten-Austin was thanked for producing the new membership cards.</p> <p>Sue informed the Club that she was standing down as she has moved to Oxfordshire. She thanked Martin and all members for their help and support and</p>	
<p>Membership Secretary’s report (Sue Edwards)</p>		

<p>Walks Co-ordinator's report (Ronnie Bunting)</p>	<p>Hilary Smart for her guidance when she took over the role.</p> <p>Ronnie reported that the wet Spring and extreme summer heat presented walk leaders with difficult decisions on cancelling, modifying and rescheduling walks and also kept Bryan busy amending the programme. The new procedure for 'fill in walks' allowed late submissions to fill gaps in the programme. These are sent to David Mason to email to members to cover any short term gaps. Consequently, we have all enjoyed a full programme offering a range of walks, in all the grade categories. Many thanks to John Smart for his work on the new system. Ronnie also thanked members who devise, plan and submit walks to Bryan in time to reach the deadline, before publication on the web site.</p> <p>Over 500 miles have been walked in 6 counties and members also enjoyed several social outings, notably the Around the Houses at Christmas, secretly planned and mysteriously executed by Stuart and Gill, assisted by Carol and Virginia. The New Year walk took place in Much Marcle followed by a lovely meal at the Walwyn Arms, also thanks to the careful planning by Stuart and Gill.</p> <p>Safety is also uppermost in our minds and Jan Lelievre was thanked for keeping the contents of the three First Aid kits complete and up to date. Ronnie has also devised a more user friendly accident form, available on our website and a copy is kept with the First Aid Kits for any of us unfortunate enough to have to use it or to record any incidents.</p> <p>As in previous years some members have led walks for the first time and we encourage those new to leading walks to speak to us if they would like some support. Submission of walks via the on-line form is the easiest way of submitting details, but they will be accepted in any format. Ronnie reminded members that dates can be reserved to secure them and, if necessary, details submitted later.</p>	
<p>Walking statistics (Chris James on behalf of Gill James)</p>	<p>Chris apologised for Gill's absence due to an engagement planned over a year ago. Having collated the walking statistics for 16 years, Gill has decided to stand down and thanked all members for submitting walks information to her.</p> <p>There were 88 walks scheduled and walked in our 'walking year' with some substitutions on the day due to weather. The New Year walk has not been included in the statistics but around 60 were there, also not counted.</p> <p>Gill had 127 names on her list, which includes all paid up, prospective members and guests. 13 members have not walked with the Group during the year. Taken to the nearest whole number, collectively we have walked around 560 miles, 30 more than last year, 1,535 have walked - an average of 17.6 on each walk.</p> <p>Walks submitted to the programme, and walked, included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 walks under 5 miles, • 25 walks between 5 and 6½, • 34 between 7 and 8½ and • 6 over 9 miles. <p>The numbers of walks per Grade were:</p>	

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