

## **Chairman's Report for 36<sup>th</sup> AGM April 2020**

In last year's report, I majored on cycling accidents, of which there were too many at the time. This time it's got to be WEATHER! It was a wet Autumn and early Winter, but nothing could prepare us for the wettest February on record. It decimated our Walks Programme and David Mason was forever emailing us with walk cancellations, postponements and replacements. Many thanks David

Thanks also to those leaders who have managed to put on replacement walks on dry land. As always our Group is only as good as it's walk leaders. Its been very pleasing to see some new leaders joining the core of existing reliables. We're grateful too to Rosemary who has taken on the walk stats role from Gill James.

THANKS is another recurring theme as I look back on my three years as Chairman. My Committee Members have been great – Paula Czepek and Jan Lelievre as Secretary; Sue Edwards (now Hodges) and David Egan as Treasurer & Membership Secretary; Ronnie and (the reclusive) Bryan Bunting as Walks Co-ordinator. Those without portfolio have all picked up tasks and contributed well too – Stuart Blows, Sue Dowdeswell and Shirley Egan.

Special Thanks to RONNIE, BRYAN, STUART & SUE who are retiring this year.

We held the latest committee meeting at my house and Diane was surprised by the obvious enjoyment and laughter coming out of the room. We've enjoyed ourselves and we've tried to provide good times for members too, with plenty of social events. Particular thanks to Graham, Diane and Harry for their work on these

We've also sought to take the Group structure and procedures forward and keep them up-to-date. We've introduced a number of new items to help:

One stop, essential info document for new members

An updated guidance doc for walk leaders

A later deadline for submitting walks

A "Fill-in" option for late submissions

Options for submission to the Walks Archive

Access to OS Maps on-line for all members

We've tried to keep health & safety matters in perspective, bearing in mind that we all participate at our own risk. We have though:

Updated our Accident/Incident reporting form

Reviewed and updated our first aid kits

Issued identity tags for members to use

Throughout my three years I've been delighted that John and Hilary have been willing to organise our Walking Breaks with HF Holidays. Their tremendous professionalism has ensured that all participants have had a great time and we look forward to Lulworth Cove this year and wherever in 2021. Thanks very much John and Hilary.

Keeping everyone up-to-date and informed is perhaps one of our biggest challenges, but we try to put the information out there and rely on you to read it. Harry has updated and rationalised the website, so please take a look. Everything I've mentioned today is on there. The Chairman's Chats are intended to summarise key points from committee minutes, with David's emails highlighting current specifics. Many thanks to Harry and David.

So that's it. Final thanks to Jean and Harry for their help and Presidential oversight .....and to you all for your support. I wish the next Chairman and Committee all the very best.

Martin Hudson

### **Walks Co-ordinator's report 2020**

The Walks Co-ordinators, for there are two of us, me and Bryan, thank everybody for their timely and accurate walks submissions over the past 12 months. It's been tricky with the heat in the summer and the endless rain this winter but members still submitted a healthy amount of walks every two months,. As I write this the impact of the Coronavirus has started to affect our social interaction and many of us are in self isolation. So its uplifting to see that recces are being carried out in our wonderfully empty countryside (everyone else is stripping shelves in the supermarkets) and new walks for future times submitted, sometimes more in hope than expectation. When the world is back to normal we hope there will be a full programme to enjoy with companions and fellow members.

Our three year stint is up this year so we should record some thanks to Harry for being able to explain the oddities of Dreamweaver and to Rosemary for being our sounding board for common sense. And of course, our thanks to fellow members for continuing to submit both the number and variety of walks during the past 36 months. Rosemary too is keeping the statistics for these, having taken over this role from Gill James last year. This year these will remain a secret until the President's BBQ on 20<sup>th</sup> July when we will all learn who is our most frequent walker and leader etc.

As in previous years the Group has walked in Herefordshire and neighbouring counties, including the Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains. Perhaps there has been more cancellation this year than others but then it's an occupational hazard for walkers.

Thanks are given to David and Shirley for arranging Around the Houses shortly before Christmas and also for rearranging it to accommodate the General election. Also to Shirley and Hilary for organising the tea at Weston village hall and to all the members who brought a scrumptious cake along. Thanks, too, for all those members, not just the committee, for the enjoyable non-walking social events that have been put on during the year. Highlights have been (in no particular order), the President's BBQ at the Yew tree, Diane's skittle evening at the Walwyn Arms, New Years Day walk and lunch at the Carvery (thanks to Sue Dowdeswell for organising), Grahams quiz (almost thwarted by the the floods) at the Sports centre and Martin for the Ceilidh .

As in previous years we have seen some members leading walks for the first time and the Walks Co-ordinators encourage those new to leading walks to speak to us if they would like some support. Access to OS maps and our leaders guidelines are freely accessible on our website and are useful areas to start from. Submission of walks via the on-line form is the easiest way of submitting details. As always if you have a walk in mind please let us know so that we can book the date and, if necessary, fill in the details later.

Bryan & Veronica Bunting

### **Membership Report 2020**

RWG's current membership stands at 110, comprising 102 Full Members, 6 Social Members and 2 Life members. During the last 12 months we have lost 11 existing members but gained 6 new members. Whilst this is a net loss of 5 we are content that this is no more than natural membership ebb and flow. Your Committee is always keen to understand why a member chooses to leave and, if appropriate, learn from it. This year members have left as a result of moving away, suffering ill-health or lacking sufficient fitness through increasing age.

May I reassure everyone that your membership details are held securely by me and are only used when communicating with you.

David Egan

## **Treasurer's Report 2020**

When studying the end of year Statement of Accounts members will notice that there has been a relatively large excess of expenditure over income. This is as a result of a conscious decision by your Committee to spend some of the funds held by RWG. Over a period of years, we have accumulated a healthy bank balance and it was agreed that some of this would be spent in-year for the benefit of members. You may recall the lunch provided for everyone at last year's AGM.

In addition to 'one off' expenditure, our Group has recurring expenses of £325.60, principally for:

- The website
- Insurance
- OS Maps
- AGM venue hire

Our only income is from membership fees and that was £522 last year, leaving us with approximately £200 to cover other expenses such as:

- Car parking
- Teas & coffees
- Stationery
- Printing
- Postage

Events such as the annual Walking Weekend, the Ceilidh and the BBQ are all self- financing.

In conclusion your Committee has decided that the current membership fee of £5 and £2 for Full and Social Membership respectively should remain unchanged. However, as a result of Coronavirus restrictions that currently preclude us walking as a group, the payment of the 2020/21 subscriptions will be suspended until further notice.

If a member has a proposal for expenditure of RWG funds, please make any Committee member aware of your idea.

David Egan