

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, 08 October 2023
Gilbert Room, Twyford Parish Hall
14.20 p.m.

Minutes

Present:			<u>Committee Members</u> Steve Nicholas - Chair Neil Elder - Treasurer Neil Pritchard - Walks Co-Ordinator Mandy Norris - Secretary <u>Members:</u> Julian Frankish Jean Dalziel Stephen Cocks Dave Morris Peter Williams Peter Williams Richard Boardman Vivienne Scales Jane Hudson Sandra Pru John Goodall Simon Gale
Apologies: Jo Sofaer Pat Kelly Miranda Shoebridge Richard Bass Carolyn			
1.	Welcome Steve Nicholas opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.		
2.	Approval of AGM Minutes & Matters Arising The Minutes of 19/11/2022 were accepted as an accurate record. Matters arising are as follows: <u>Ramblers Website</u> The new website has gone live this year. There have been some teething issues which have been sorted out. It was noted that due to GDPR, the Walk Leaders names are not automatically shown, however, there is a procedure for the names to be published although it takes 24 hours for the name to be visible. <u>Expenses</u> The Committee agreed that expenses will not be paid to Walk Leaders at this time due to the small funding available to the Group and in order retain the financial stability of H40+. <u>First Aid Kits</u> These have all been distributed now. There are funds available to pay for additional kits for new Walk Leaders if required in future.		

	<u>Summer BBQ</u> Andy Standing organised the Summer BBQ and it went well. Andy covered the costs with contributions from attendees. <u>Memorial Bench for Jan Wilson</u> The Just Giving fund raising event was very successful. Funds paid for the cost of the bench and sundry installation and maintenance costs and a the remaining £664.87 was donated to the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice which supported Jan so well. Thanks were given to all those who contributed time, effort, and money for this very worthy cause to remember a great friend of the H40+ Group.	
3.	Annual Report – November 2021 to November 2022 <u>Chairman’s Report</u> (Steve) It has been a great year for the Group. It has been very encouraging to see so many new faces on the walks, along with those who have supported the Group for many years. The Christmas Party at the Winchester Hotel & Spa last year was great fun. We will be holding this year’s Christmas Party at the Holiday Inn, Winchester. Thank you to Neil Pritchard and Jane Hudson for organising the excellent Brecon Beacons weekend in May and for laying on the fabulous weather. Also, thank you to Elaine Cooper for organising the Dorset weekend which offered fabulous coastal walks. In addition, thanks to Peter Williams and Heather Farqhar for organising the Bradford On Avon & Bath weekend. Early in May, a memorial bench for Jan Wilson was installed as Bazeley Copse, near Micheldever with the help of the local Rights of Way Team. Thank you to Miranda Shoebridge for finding this location, and to Dave Morris for organising the fundraising. The speed in which the target was reached and exceeded is testament to how loved and missed Jan is. Everyone who gave their time and donations is thanked. I have attended a couple of Area (Hampshire) meetings on Zoom this year and points of note are: • David Nicols (Hampshire Area Chair) has stood down after 15 years in post and the position is vacant. Vanessa Slawson (SE Ramblers Regional Engagement Officer and Chair) ran the last meeting. She pointed out that lots of charitable organisations are struggling to fill volunteer roles since Covid lockdowns. • A Ramblers Extraordinary General Meeting is being held in Manchester on 25 November, primarily to explain the Ramblers new strategy which has been written following consultative meetings. The reason for the EGM is to approve the strategy for January 2024 launch. Details of the strategy will be shared with groups and members in due course. National Ramblers membership is 104,000, about 600 down on this time last year. H40+ is 188, an increase of 7 since last year. Our Facebook page has 2,425 followers (1,726 last year) so we are creating a buzz that others are keen to follow.	

Unfortunately, this year the Committee has been required to seek the support of Ramblers Central to broker mediation between two members of the Group, however, this should not affect others' enjoyment of Group activities.

Finally, I would like to thank:

- Walk Leaders for continuing to offer the wide range of walks across Hampshire and occasionally further afield, you are the backbone of the Group!
- Peter Williams our new Walk Leader who has embraced the role enthusiastically.
- Neil Pritchard who usually plans 12 months ahead which keeps forward dates in the diary.
- Neil Elder for arranging this year's Christmas Party.
- David Brettell for planning the Scottish Highlands trip from 26-31 May 2024.
- My fellow Committee Members whose support is greatly appreciated.

Treasurers Report (Neil E)

The Accounts for the end of year 30/09/2023 was as follows:

Activity through the Main Income & Expenditure Account was modest with the income during the last 12 months being £411.04 made up of a Ramblers Grant of £301.04 and a £110.00 Ramblers World Holiday incentive. Expenditure has included £66.00 for AGM room hire costs and £58.43 for the cost of First Aid Kits. At end of year there was a balance of £852.69. The new Committee will agree how much will be returned to Ramblers to ensure compliance with Ramblers finance rules for Groups.

The Surplus (Social Activities) account has seen income of £675.00 received from members for the 2023 Christmas Party and £1,572.78 fundraising for Jan Wilson's memorial bench. Expenditure has included £898.50 for the 2022 Christmas Party, £200.00 deposit for the 2023 Christmas Party, £780.00 for Jan Wilson's bench, £48.36 for the bench plaque, £79.55 for bench oil, and £664.87 for a donation to the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice (surplus money from fundraising). At the end of year, the Surplus Bank Account had a credit balance of £617.69. It should be noted that the remainder of the 2023 Christmas Party cost needs to be paid from this.

If members have ideas for raising funds or activities to use expenditure, they should be raised with Committee members.

Walk Co-Ordinator's Report (Neil P)

The new Ramblers website is settling down now and although there have been a few problems to be sorted out, there are advantages now that it is working more smoothly.

Thanks to all the Walk Leaders, it's been a great year, with a good cross-section of walks, including well received trips away. The effort and time to prepare walks and trips is appreciated by the Committee and Members.

The Group is in a good place, with there being nearly 90 walks in the last year which is comparable to annual numbers prior to the pandemic. Feedback continues to highlight that it is a friendly group, and we regularly have walkers from other groups too. We look forward to another successful year ahead and are already planning another group trip for 2025 and more news on this will follow.

4.	Election of Committee Members All Committee Members stepped down and roles were agreed for the next year as follows:- • Steve Nicholas - Chair (Proposed by Vivienne Scales. Seconded by Peter Williams.) • Miranda Shoebridge - Secretary (Proposed by Richard Boardman. Seconded by Jane Hudson.) • Neil Elder – Treasurer (Proposed by Julian Frankish. Seconded by Stephen Cocks.) • Neil Pritchard – Walks Co-ordinator (Proposed by Mandy Norris. Seconded by Dave Morris.) In addition, Stephen Cocks agreed to continue in the role of Web Administrator outside of the formal Committee structure. On behalf of the new Committee, Steve thanked Mandy Norris for holding the role of Secretary for the last six years and also thanked her for the lovely cakes at AGM meetings. Steve also confirmed he is happy to continue representing the Group at on-line Area Meetings.	
5.	Any Other Business • Steve proposed that going forward, the Group’s Facebook account will be managed by Moderators who are Committee Members only. After discussion, the proposal was agreed by all those present. Steve will write to Moderators who are not Committee Members to inform them of this decision and will remove their access. • There was discussion about the Walks Planning Tool published on Facebook and the importance of not making short-notice changes. Neil agreed to add a column to indicate whether the walk has been confirmed on Ramblers website and narrative to say that walk details need to be published within three weeks of the walk. • Stephen confirmed there will be a big software update to the Ramblers website soon and it should be seamless but there is potential for disruptions. If anyone has suggestions for changes please contact him.	Steve Neil
6.	Close of Meeting Steve thanked everyone for attending the 2023 AGM and closed the meeting.	