

# Oxfordshire Weekend Walkers AGM Minutes

Date: 20/11/11

Time: 14:00

Location: Stanton St John Village Hall, Stanton St John, Oxfordshire

2010/11 committee members present: Judith Agnew, Carolyn Blackmore, Vanessa Corrick, Ian Feetenby, Catherine Guiver, Liz McGowan, Gavin Powell (chair), Alan Rew

2010/11 committee apologies: Jane Ferguson, Julie Minch

Gavin Powell thanked people for attending the AGM.

## ***Minutes of previous meeting***

The minutes of the previous AGM had been approved by the committee.

## ***Existing committee members reports***

Reports were given by Gavin Powell, Ian Feetenby, Jane Ferguson (by e-mail), Julie Minch (by e-mail), Liz McGowan, Alan Rew, Carolyn Blackmore. Where these were prepared electronically, copies will be kept. Details are given later in the document.

## ***Newly elected committee roles***

<b>Role</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
Chairman	Gavin Powell	Alan Rew	Glynis Barber
Secretary	Judith Agnew	Karen Grave	Vanessa Corrick
Treasurer	Devinder Sivia	Gavin Powell	Liz McGowan
Membership secretary	Jane Ferguson	Ian Feetenby	Alan Rew
Walks coordinator	Julie Minch	Gavin Powell	Judith Agnew
Website manager	Alan Rew	Gavin Powell	Karen Grave
Social secretary	Derek Jones	Gavin Powell	Judith Agnew
Representative on area committee	Gavin Powell	Ian Feetenby	Vanessa Corrick
Publicity	Carolyn Blackmore	Karen Grave	Kerry Forkner
Footpaths officer	Karen Grave	Gavin Powell	Liz McGowan
Member without portfolio	Kerry Forkner Sheena Derry	Carolyn Blackmore Karen Grave	Judith Agnew Vanessa Corrick

All appointments were uncontested and so were voted in en-bloc.

## ***Discussion on methods for communication between group members***

Prior to the AGM the need to enable easier communications between group members had been discussed by the committee. Two options had been identified: to make use of the planned Yahoo Groups global e-mail list possible for all members (rather than just the committee as with the existing system) and/or to create a group Facebook page. The options were presented to those

present at the AGM to determine which was felt to be more useful to members. There was more interest in the use of the Yahoo Groups list. While some group members use Facebook, there was less interest in pursuing this option. It should be noted that the two options aren't mutually exclusive. It was also noted that even when the global use of the Yahoo Groups list is implemented, walks and social events should still be publicised by submission to the group website in the same way as now.

## **AOB**

A link to a weather website from the group website was suggested.

## ***Date of next committee meeting***

16<sup>th</sup> January 2012 7:30pm at the King's Arms, Sandford

Meeting closed at 15:10.

## **Committee reports**

### ***Chairman***

The Weekend Walkers have had a good year in 2011: membership has broken the 80+ barrier as stated in official returns from Head Office. Our recent walking and publicity activity has attracted several new members to the group and these people now walk with us on a regular basis. New members bring fresh ideas and make the group more diverse and cosmopolitan which in turn attracts more people: like any group we want our membership to prosper and grow.

As we are a walking group walking is at the forefront of all we do and I would like to thank all the walk leaders who have led walks for us during the past year - this includes those leading at weekends, evenings and on weekends away. We have had several members lead walks for the first time this year and this is very encouraging. Along with contributions from regular walk leaders this has led to an interesting and varied walks programme. I would encourage all our members to get involved in the group and put something back by leading walks. Please send all walk submissions to Julie Minch via the form on our website.

I would also like to thank all the volunteers who took part and helped out with various roles at General Council which was held at Keble College this year. The lectures, discussions and debates were interesting and informative. It was equally good to meet groups from other areas of the country and to share points of view. The whole event went well and the participants thanked the Oxford Area for hosting it.

A group of people completed the Cotswold Way over several weekends this year and last, walking from Chipping Campden to Bath. This event was organised and led by Kerry Forkner assisted by Karen Bridge: it was a fantastic walking experience through some beautiful countryside. A similar group, led by Helen Barham, also completed the d'Arcy Dalton Way this year. This is another linear walk from Wormleighton near Banbury to Waylands Smithy through the equally beautiful Oxfordshire countryside.

We have had four weekends away this year. Gerry Barwell organised a long weekend on the Isle of Lundy walking and watching the local wildlife. Pete Norris organised a long weekend in Yorkshire near the village of Kettlewell which included several walks and even an outdoor barbeque. A joint weekend away was held with the Oxon 20-30s group in the Gower where walking and surfing were the main events. Pete Richards and Glynis Toye organised the group's first camping weekend away in the Peak District - fortunately the weather was ideal for camping. On behalf of the group I would like to thank everyone who was involved in these activities. Weekends away are good social events and allow people to get to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere.

Social events over the last year have included regular meals out (sampling the cuisine of many different countries), an Aunt Sally pub evening and a very popular trip to the Globe Theatre's Touring Production of 'As You Like It' where again we were lucky with the weather.



Note: there is some money available to be spent on publicity in the coming year.

## ***Membership***

During the past year our membership has grown from approximately 70 at last year's AGM to 95 at the end of October 2011. Now that the group has been running a few years we are starting to see some members leaving the group – approximately 13 this year – but this is easily outnumbered by the regular stream of new members. These are a mixture of members transferring from other groups and members new to the ramblers.

As a group we are growing fast relative to the other groups in Oxford. We attracted 27 people this year who were new to the Ramblers, representing 28% of our current membership. This compares very favourably with Oxford region as a whole, which attracted 231 new members representing only 11% of the total current membership. We have also overtaken the 20s & 30s group which has 75 members.

## ***Area committee representative***

Gavin has attended all area meetings in the last year and reports that our contribution is well-received. He also attended 2 county shows to help with Ramblers recruitment stalls. Our contribution to the organisation of the General Council in Oxford in April 2011 raised our profile.

Dave Kavanagh is investigating setting up a volunteer group to work on path clearance, stile repair, etc. within Oxfordshire.

## ***Publicity***

Our main publicity tool continues to be the website. Copies of the flyer advertising the group are still available to members.

## ***Webmaster***

The website and mailing lists are running smoothly. Alan thanked people who sent photos for display in the gallery and asked that members continue to send them. Work is in progress to replace our existing group e-mail system with a Yahoo group. This will allow more flexibility.

## ***Walks programme***

This report covers the period from the last AGM and will start in time honoured fashion with an impressive array of statistics:

Number of walks offered - 69 [66 last year]

Number of miles – 577 [561 last year]

Longest – 16.5 miles

Shortest – 3.5 miles

If anyone went on every walk this year they would have almost walked the equivalent of going from John O'Groats to Lands End (give or take 25 miles).

8 of the walks were generously provided by other groups as joint walks offering the opportunity to meet members from different areas and age ranges. A mention must go to the following Oxon WW members who kindly organised the other 61 walks:

Judith Agnew  
John Allen  
Sam Band  
Helen Barham  
Gerry Barwell  
Sarah Billam  
Carolyn Blackmore  
Vanessa Corrick  
Ian Feetenby  
Jane Ferguson  
Kerry Forkner  
Hazel Geatches  
Neil Gorton  
Karen Grave  
Frances Hansford  
Neil Hoggarth  
Anne Lister  
Martin Lister  
Liz McGowan  
Julie Minch  
Rachel Murphy  
Matthew O'Byrne  
Helen O'Neill  
Gavin Powell  
Pete Richards  
Lyn Roberts  
Devinder Sivia  
Sara Smith  
Clare Stonebridge  
Alison Thomas  
Glynis Toye  
John Waldram  
Anthony Williamson

and last but not least Dave Willis – although I suspect he did not have many attend as it was 11,682 miles to the start of the walk. Looking forward to your submission of one a little closer in the coming year Dave!!

Notwithstanding, members did battle through snow and drought to enjoy a fantastic variety of countryside, distances and types of walk spread throughout Oxfordshire and surrounding counties.

Although a dozen new names have been added to the 'Led Walk' list a few have dropped off and on several occasions the walk calendar entries dwindled to just 2 or 3 walks with one week having no walk at all. So grateful thanks to those who have and will hopefully continue to lead walks for the group and if a few more could be added then perhaps the calendar will have entries for 2-3 months rather than weeks.

Finally I think members deserve a big pat on the back for the unstinting support they have given to pubs and tea shops throughout the region at the end of most walks!

### ***Social programme***

See Chairman's report. Members were reminded that the social programme depends on members organising social events for the group.

## **Attendee list**

Total attendees: 23

<b>Name</b>	<b>Oxon. Weekend Walkers member?</b>
Judith Agnew	Yes
Gavin Powell	Yes
Ian Feetenby	Yes
David Jenkins	Yes
Liz McGowan	Yes
Vanessa Corrick	Yes
Catherine Guiver	Yes
Neil Hoggarth	Yes
Derek Jones	Yes
Devinder Sivia	Yes
Nicole Grobert	No
Glynis Toye	Yes
Clare Stonebridge	Yes
Pete Richards	Yes
Gill Watson	No
Kerry Forkner	Yes
Alan Rew	Yes
Karen Grave	Yes
Carolyn Blackmore	Yes
Julie Goldsmith	Yes
Aileen Gonella	Yes
Jen Cothier	Yes
Sheena Derry	Yes