

# **Oxon Weekend Walkers AGM 4pm Sunday 20th November 2022**

## **The Plough, Wolvercote**

### **MINUTES**

1. Apologies received from Helen B, Sheena D, Mark M, Kerry F, Sara Bu and Richard M. Eighteen members present.
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 21st November 2021 were accepted.
3. Reports from current Committee

#### **a. Chair**

Our last AGM was on Sunday 21st Nov 2021 here in the Plough.

We will be hearing the reports from committee members of activities during the last 12 months, however here is a brief reflection on the last year

By November 2021 we were finally able to consistently advertise walks as “no need to book, just turn up” a welcome change from our 2 previous years that were sadly dominated by the restrictions of the terrible COVID pandemic.

Moving into 2022, thanks to members initiatives and volunteering between us all, we have managed to:

1. Offer a full programme of walks almost every Sunday through the year
2. Welcome new walk leaders who have led us on new adventures
3. Enjoy a number of summer evening walks by various leaders
4. Share a summer Picnic with the 20/30s group “Hike Oxfordshire”
5. Have many more social events on offer including theatre trips and disc golf near Charlbury
6. Experience a fab weekend away in the Elan Valley.

So many members have contributed to this year that there are too many names to mention individually, however you know who you are and thanks to you all.

As with every year, the cornerstone of our success in 2022 has been the fantastic volunteering of our walk leaders. Walk leading can be great fun and we always need new walk leaders so please do consider offering walks in 2023.

Looking forward to 2023 we will have more socials planned and walking weekends away available for OxonWW members to book

Weekends away currently include:

In April a 22 mile Cake challenge walk in Shropshire,

In June a 4 night break with walks around the coast of West Wales

and in August a return to Mid Wales for another weekend in the Elan Valley with Steve and hopefully our inspiring local shepherd Tudor.

Details of the West Wales Coastal walks have already been circulated

Details of Elan Valley will be circulated in December

And the April Shropshire 22 mile Cake challenge will be circulated by email in January.

So, in summary for 2022, my personal thanks go to the committee, the walk leaders and all the individuals who have worked together to make the group so successful. We can all look forward to the next 12 months.

#### **b. Walks Programme Secretary**

- We delivered 56 walks this year – slightly less than in the previous year, and the total number of miles walked in the year was over 560 miles, with an average 10.6 miles each Sunday.
- We've had some great walks – thanks to the 24 different walk leaders who volunteered walks.
- Particular thanks go to those offering multiple walks this year – Lyn, Ian, Nicola and others, with Lyn once again leading the most walks.
- It's been great to see 5 new walk leaders leading their first walk, Sara R, Sara Bu, Sara Ba, Carolyn & John, and Emily, and particularly thanks to Sara R who went on to lead a further 3 in short succession.
- We had 3 evening walks during the summer – thanks to Helen O' N and Sara Ba, and a Saturday walk too thanks to Sheila and Kevin.
- We have been able to share some great pictures too, to promote our group and show the variety of walks.
- My role was made much easier this year with Jane P and Laura T helping to manage the walks programme and helping walk leaders post their walks. Each covered a third of the year. Many thanks - it worked well, and provided great back-up for myself.

Thanks to everyone who walked with us over the year – we hope you all enjoyed having the opportunity to get out every Sunday.

#### **c. Membership Secretary**

There has been an overall increase in membership numbers of 1.9 % across the ten Oxfordshire groups. Comparing our increase of 2.7 % with this, we are doing well in recruiting new members. In fact, we currently have 153 members in our group so we are doing very well indeed. I think this is the highest number of members that I have seen in our group over the time I have been Membership Secretary. So, we must be doing something right! I feel that the reasons we are doing so well include... Our presence on the internet and social media means that we are visible to curious, potential walkers. When people join us for their first walk, they are welcomed and even given a sit mat to use at lunchtime. We offer a brilliant range of walks in the lovely countryside. Once someone joins our group, they receive a "welcome" email and an invitation to join our Facebook group. I also email the committee to remind them to look out for new members

#### **d. Group Representative to the Area Executive**

The AREA meetings are still held on ZOOM and this makes the meeting more efficient and easier to access. In general, we discuss issues from Ramblers Head Office and information is passed onto the groups in the Oxfordshire area. We also share good ideas and concerns. This year has been relatively quiet with COVID restrictions being eased, no Countryfile Live and the data protection systems now being old news. Also, recruitment at events such as the Thame Food Festival are now being managed

by Ramblers Head office. They engage the services of a company to promote Ramblers and sign-up new members. We have discussed issues such as “Lost Paths” and the “Don't Lose Your Way” programs, funding for replacement stiles in Oxfordshire (£400 per stile), funding for individual groups (there is around £7000 held in the reserve fund for Oxfordshire Area) and, we always discuss the walks booklet, which is no longer being published, but is missed by some groups. This year, the Oxfordshire Area has offered an increase of 29% more walks. This is partly due to some groups having an increased number of walk leaders, and partly due to some existing walk leaders being happy to put on more walks because of the shorter programme planning time. The Oxfordshire Area Picnic was hosted by Henley and Goring Group. They were lucky to have excellent weather and nearly 100 people attended. Two officers from the AREA committee are retiring this year: Jim Parke, Chair and David Godfrey, Footpaths Officer. Anyone interested in taking on these roles please let the OWW committee know. The AREA AGM will be held on Jan 9th. I will confirm this nearer the time

#### **e. Social Secretary**

We have had some recent problems with advertising social events. At present we are unable to post social events on our website, hence sending emails.

In late 2021/early 2022 we continued to socialise virtually, and two quizzes were held: one in December 2021, and one in February 2022. Both attracted between 10-14 participants.

Since the ease/ending of social distancing restrictions (and members re-gaining confidence in socialising indoors) we've had a good number of face-to-face events.

- Disc Golf, at a campsite near Charlbury, in May 2022. 10 of us participated and learnt how hard it is to aim frisbees at metallic 'nets'.
- Julius Caesar (theatre) organised by Catherine G, in July 2022. By all accounts it was an innovative production and was attended by around 8 members.
- Mikron Theatre, at The Plough in August, organised by Ian M, attracted around 10 members.
- Playing Latinx (performative arts), at the Burton Taylor Studios in October: 4 of us attended.
- Chamber music from Estonia (concert at the JdP Building) on 19th November – 5 people attending at the time of writing, and organised by Peter R.

Thanks to Catherine, Ian and Peter for organising these social events. By all accounts they were very much enjoyed by all who attended.

For 2022-2023 it would be good to continue to have some opportunities to socialise in our programme. We have not had many post-walk pub visits since coming out of lockdown, so this could be something to think about. Perhaps we could nominate a walk where we know in advance that there is an optional post-walk pub visit?

#### **f. Webmaster**

Dave F is unable to attend the AGM and will not stand for re-election.

#### **g. Treasurer**

| <b>Ramblers Association: Oxon Weekend Walkers (OX40)</b> |                                                                                |              |               |                |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| <b>Accounts: 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022</b>     |                                                                                |              |               |                |
|                                                          |                                                                                |              |               |                |
|                                                          |                                                                                |              |               |                |
| <b>Date</b>                                              | <b>Description</b>                                                             | <b>Debit</b> | <b>Credit</b> | <b>Balance</b> |
| 01/10/2021                                               | Balance brought forward                                                        |              |               | <b>£328.32</b> |
| 28/10/2021                                               | Ramblers funding                                                               |              | £114.00       | £442.32        |
| 28/10/2021                                               | Income from walking partnership with Ramblers Holidays                         |              | £50.00        | £492.32        |
| 24/11/2021                                               | AGM draw cost                                                                  | £38.77       |               | £453.55        |
| 24/11/2021                                               | AGM Expenses                                                                   | £45.00       |               | £408.55        |
| 04/02/2022                                               | Ordnance Survey subscription                                                   | £100.00      |               | £308.55        |
| 25/02/2022                                               | Purchase of sit mats for group walks                                           | £53.95       |               | £254.60        |
| 07/03/1932                                               | Collection from people on Ramble to cover donation to village hall for parking |              | £32.00        | £286.60        |
| 28/03/2022                                               | Donation to village hall for parking for ramble                                | £32.00       |               | £254.60        |
| 20/04/2022                                               | Ramblers funding                                                               |              | £114.00       | £368.60        |
|                                                          |                                                                                |              |               |                |
| 30/09/2022                                               | Balance carried forward                                                        |              |               | <b>£368.60</b> |
| <b>Notes</b>                                             |                                                                                |              |               |                |
| 1)                                                       | Possible IT/communications costs due to Dave Flitney.                          |              |               |                |
| 2)                                                       | Group allocation for 2021/22: standard group formula (£228.00).                |              |               |                |
| 3)                                                       | Independent examination of accounts now done by Louise Stratton                |              |               |                |
| 4)                                                       | Bank signatories: Peter Ransom, Kevin Hessey                                   |              |               |                |
| 5)                                                       | Bank balance as at 31 October 22 is £335.33.                                   |              |               |                |
|                                                          |                                                                                |              |               |                |

#### 4. Walk Leaders draw

Each walk led earned one entry into a draw for an e gift voucher. Name drawn from a hat to receive the voucher was Antoinette. Draw for leaders who had led multiple walks was won by Gavin

Thank you prizes were also presented to those who led their first walks, Sara R, Sara Ba, Sara Bu, Emily and Carolyn and John.

#### 5. Stand down of current Committee

#### 6. Election of new Committee

| Post            | Candidate | Proposer | Seconder |
|-----------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Chair           | Ian M     | Peter    | Sara R   |
| Walks           | Pam C     | Carolyn  | Vanessa  |
| Social          | Lyn R     | Jane     | Peter    |
| Membership      | Nicola C  | Pam      | Jane     |
| Webmaster       | Richard M | Jane     | Pam      |
| Secretary       | Kevin H   | Gavin    | Lyn      |
| Treasurer       | Sara Bu   | Pam      | Nicola   |
| Area Rep        | Nicola C  | Sara R   | Ian      |
| W/O Portfolio 1 | Jane P    | Pam      | Lyn      |

W/O Portfolio 2 Laura T

Pam

Lyn

W/O Portfolio 3 Petra N

Nicola

Carolyn

The new committee was accepted. Secretary thanked the outgoing Treasurer, Peter R, for his time on the committee.

#### 7. AOB

No other business but two further points made following questions from members. 1. Re Treasurer's report opinion was given that it would be best to return any surplus funds to Ramblers rather than donate to a charity. 2. Social Secretary confirmed that it is now possible to post details of socials on our website.

End of meeting 4.47pm.