

## Minutes of Ross and District Walking Group 40<sup>th</sup> AGM - Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Agenda		Action
Apologies	<p>Jan Beaton, Gill and Stuart Blows, Bryan Bunting, Alison and Andrew Chalmers, Clive and Linda Davies, Wendy Davies, David and Shirley Egan, Gerald and Marian Francis, Mary Hacker, Kevin and Linda Graddon, Eileen Lyon, Di and Rob Moreton, Pat O'Hara, Sue Phypers, Mary Richards, Judith Stares, Gill Sweetland.</p> <p>A note of appreciation from Jan Beaton was read out.</p>	
	<p>Present: Mike and Sally Adye, Harry Britten-Austin, Ronnie Bunting, Bob Carter, Roy Cooke, Geoff Cooper, Sue Dowdeswell, Carol and Frank Endersby, Christopher Glenn, Peter Gratton, Jean Harrison, Ruth Harrison, Janet and Rob Horton Smith, Diane Hudson, Martin Hudson, Gill James, Sylvia Jardine, Phil Lear, Jan Lelievre, Elaine Lutkin, Roy Matthews, Katrina McIntosh, Gill and John Moxham, Brenda and Norman Pomfret, John Pullen, Karen Say, Mary Sears, Beverley Sinclair, Hilary and John Smart, Cindy Smith, Gail Spolton, Chris Sutton, Rosemary Sutton, Pauline Thomas, Margaret and Roger Williams, Helen Willingham, Don and Margaret Wood, Jane Wright,</p>	
Minutes of 39 <sup>th</sup> AGM	<p>The minutes of the 39<sup>th</sup> AGM were approved and signed.</p>	
Chairman's report	<p>The chairman, Kath Baldwin, welcomed members to the AGM:</p> <p>I am now coming to the end of my first year as Chair of the Ross and District Walking Group. We are today in a new venue for us, and I hope you will find it satisfactory. Although apparently, the Group held its AGM in the Conservative Club thirty-five years ago in 1989. Today is the 40<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Group and so we will be having some special celebrations, including this lovely cake which we will cut at the end of the meeting. We also produced a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Calendar. If you didn't purchase one, there is one on display today and also the minutes of the very first AGM and some other memorabilia. Please have a look at these before or after lunch.</p> <p>We have also put together a short history of the Group which will be sent to the Ross Gazette as part of our celebrations.</p> <p><i>'Ross and District Walking group celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at its AGM held on that date at Ross Conservative Club.</i></p> <p><i>In April 1984 Margaret Smith and friends decided it would be fun to form a group to walk regularly together. They did this and the first walk was on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1984. At first, the Club had a printed programme. This transitioned to emailed programmes and now the Club has a website with the Programme displayed there and is so accessible to non members as well as to members.</i></p> <p><i>We now have over 100 members and there are usually 2 walks each week of varying length and difficulty. Walks are graded so that people can choose walks within their capability. Usually we have a coffee stop and picnic lunch and we carry our own refreshments. Sometimes there may be a pub lunch at the end of a morning walk. We have some social events including a summer BBQ, skittles match and occasional quizzes. We also have an Annual Christmas lunch and New Year lunch at a pub with an optional walk before each one. We usually have a group weekend holiday each year. Last year it was on the Isle of Wight and next September it will be in the Elan Valley in mid Wales.</i></p> <p><i>The group works closely with Walkers are Welcome and helps with the annual Walking Festival in September.</i></p> <p><i>More information can be found on our website (rosswalkinggroup.co.uk) and new members are always welcome. You can even try us out for 3 walks before deciding if you wish to join!'</i></p> <p>So, we will now look back on the year just gone. We have had a fairly full programme of walks, but sometimes we have needed more. Some of our regular walk leaders have had to retire due to advancing age and/or health problems, so we are in need of new regular Walk Leaders.</p>	

To this end we held a Walk Leader Training Session in October 2023 and there have also been some training sessions on paper map reading and the What3words app. Thanks all those who helped with these. There may be more in the future if there is a demand.

I give heartfelt thanks to all who have led or assisted with walks in the past year. Without you, we would not have a Walking Group! Particular thanks go to Gail Spolton, Kevin and Linda Graddon, Frank and Carol Endersby, Andy Smith and Phil Lear who have all led their first walks in the past year. Beverley Sinclair should have been in this list had not her first walk been cancelled yesterday because of the weather!

However, the Committee still appeals to all members to 'have a go' at leading or helping with a walk. Experienced walk leaders are always ready to help with advice or practical assistance. Despite the very wet winter only a few walks have had to be cancelled, although we may have to have a new award for the muddiest walk of the year. At the moment this title is held by the walk at Churcham led by Mary and Rosemary! We have also begun to try to use the bus to get us to walk starting points when possible. Roy and Pauline have been involved in using the new Daffodil Line bus that runs from Ross to Ledbury via Newent, to enable walks.

We have had a fairly full programme of social events, some of which are linked with walks. We had a BBQ at the Yew tree in July, thanks to Graham, Pat and team and Harry, and our second Petanque morning in September organised by Diane. At the BBQ we again had a table to sell second hand walking related gear and we raised £190 for the Air Ambulance. Then we enjoyed a Christmas lunch and walk (thanks to Roy and Pauline) and our 'Round the Houses' in December organised by me helped by Mary Richards. (Thanks to our hosts, Gill Moxham, Sue Phypers and Linda and Kevin for their generous hospitality). In January we had our New Year Walk and Lunch. (Thanks to Harry for organising the lunch and Bob for leading the walk.) In March we had a great Skittles evening at the Conservative Club ably organised by Diane.

We enjoyed the Group holiday in September on the Isle of Wight. This was based at a Warner's Hotel and was enjoyed by a group of 44 members. Thanks to Diane and Martin, Roy and Pauline and Mary Sears for organising the holiday and leading the walks. This year we are having the Group Walking holiday at Elan Valley Lodge in mid Wales from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024. We were approached by the staff at the Lodge, who will lead walks for us as well as making sure we are well fed and have a comfortable stay there. At the time of writing there are 24 members booked on the holiday. There are a few more places if anyone else would like to join us. Please ask me about the rooms available. We will also be looking for someone to organise a holiday in 2025!

There are many people who do work behind the scenes to enable the Walking group to function. Rosemary Sutton does a sterling job keeping the walk statistics. You will hear more about these later. John Smart and David Egan send out messages to members, in particular about walk cancellations or changes. David wishes to step down from this role. Roy Matthews and Colin Sears have been helping with the website. Colin would like to retire from this job in September, so thanks to David and to Colin for all they have done. Your committee also works hard behind the scenes, Diane (Sec.) Don (Treasurer and membership sec.), Pauline Thomas (Walk co-ordinator), Bob Carter and Carol Endersby, so thanks to them, and to Roy Matthews who has decided to retire from the committee. But someone who does a tremendous amount of work, particularly as web-master is Harry Britten Austin. Where would we be without our web-site? He has also organised the New Year walk and the BBQ venue for several years. He has also served on the Committee and has been Chairman and President of the group, as well as being a regular walk Leader. He also makes our membership cards and does many other helpful jobs. The Committee has decided that in recognition of his outstanding service to the Group we would like to recommend him to become a Life Member. Can you indicate if you are in favour of this proposal?

This was supported and Kath congratulated Harry. Harry then thanked the committee, saying that he enjoyed the work and to look out shortly for details of the Summer event on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

	<p>So to end, a personal thank you from me to the Committee for all their help and support during the year and also to Gill James our President who has shared her knowledge and experience whenever needed. I will invite her to say a few words after the Election of Officers.</p> <p>Thank you all for coming today and I hope you enjoy our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations and your lunch and that you will continue to enjoy sharing in the walks programme in the coming year.</p>	All
Membership and Treasurer's Report	<p>Don Wood's reports are attached. Membership currently stands at 141. The Group's funds are £3151.24.</p> <p>Cindy Smith was thanked for auditing the accounts.</p> <p>Her appointment as next year's auditor was proposed by Harry and seconded by Gill James and agreed by a vote.</p> <p>The annual accounts were signed after being proposed by Jan Lelievre and seconded by Sue Dowdeswell.</p> <p>Membership cards were available.</p>	
Walks Co-ordinator's report	<p>Pauline greeted the AGM and gave her report:</p> <p>I hope that you have all enjoyed the last year's programme of walks? We have had a varied and interesting selection on many different days of the week and covering most grades although there has been a lack of longer grade 4 walks recently, perhaps a sign that none of us are getting any younger!</p> <p>I won't go into statistics as, if you are interested, Rosemary has them all available for you to peruse at your leisure.</p> <p>Now, I know Kath has already mentioned this but we really are in need of more Walk Leaders. If you would like to have a go and need that extra help and support, just contact a member of the committee, we would be only too willing to help get you started. To those of you who have already taken on the challenge during the last year we are all very grateful.</p> <p>The forward Planner is now working a little better as Walk Leaders become more familiar with it although, on the odd occasions, we still have people submitting walks on days that are already reserved, so please check the Planner first!</p> <p>We also now have a few more of you using OS Maps and if you have never had a look I would encourage you to give it a go, just get in touch if you need help.</p> <p>Just a reminder that the password will be changed after the next Committee meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April so if you have paid your subscription just get in touch for the updated version.</p> <p>Bob Carter then invited anyone who might be interested in a paper map reading training session to get in touch with him.</p>	
Walking Statistics	<p>Rosemary Sutton presented her report on the statistics up to February 2024. These are attached. 17 walks were cancelled last year. Numbers of walkers against the RTVD cost, indicating distance to the start, were also worked out.</p> <p>The winning certificate for the most walks led will be presented to Mary Richards. Mary Sears was presented with the certificate for the most distance walked and for the most walks completed, together with the Group's knitted walker trophy.</p>	
Election of Officers	<p>There being one nomination for each of the vacant positions, the following were elected unopposed:</p> <p>Kath Baldwin – Chairman  Diane Hudson – Secretary  Don Wood – Treasurer/Membership Secretary  Pauline Thomas – Walks Co-ordinator  Bob Carter – Committee  Carol Endersby – Committee  Gail Spolton – Committee</p> <p>Proposer John Pullen  Seconder Rosemary Sutton</p>	

	<p>The president Gill James said that she had held all of the committee positions except Walks Co-ordinator in the past and appreciated the work which was carried out. She also thanked the leader of this morning's walk, Jean Harrison.</p>	
AOB	<p>Social membership at £2.00 was seen as unnecessary with the current full subscription at £5.00 and it was recommended that it be dropped. This was proposed by Bob Carter and seconded by Carol Endersby and carried.</p> <p>The committee had purchased weatherproof identity tags for all members so that the nearest kin details could be easily accessed should that be necessary during a walk. Carol demonstrated their use.</p> <p>This part of the AGM concluded at 12.35.</p>	
	<p>The meeting was followed by the cutting of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cake by Kath.</p> <p>Bob then gave out the Quiz questions, which were based on the information on the Group's website and after an appropriate time, voiced the answers. The Quiz was won by Martin Hudson who was presented with chocolates.</p>	
	<p>Walking Statistics:</p> <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><b>Summary – 1 March 2023 – 29 February 2024</b></p> <p>In the period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 to 29 February 2024 we have done 75 walks in total, down last year by 19. These were made up by Grade 1 – 6, Grade 2 – 23, Grade 3 – 46. There were no Grade 4 walks. The average number of walkers on each of those grades was Grade 1 – 17 Grades 2 and 3 - 16</p> <p>Top 3 walks with the most members were Round the Houses and Whitestone both with 29, but not surprisingly the most was the BBQ with 34. (interestingly, last year it was The Severn Bore with 44)</p> <p>I've done some graphs which show the number of walks between various lengths, as well as graphs showing the average number of members who walked the various distances. Also you can see how many miles each of you have actually walked during the period 1 March 23 to 29 Feb 24.</p> <p>In addition, this year I have some stats surrounding the RTVD which hopefully will give us all an idea of just how far members are willing to travel to do a walk. If you did all 53 of those walks, the average spend is £2.47. The average number on those walks was 16. For the 22 walks where there was no RTVD the average number of walkers was 18.</p> <p>We had a mention in the Spring edition of the 232 bus magazine where it says that Les Lumsdon (Editor) says "it was quite a moment when he learned that the RWG decided to get behind the new 232 Ledbury-Ross bus service known affectionately as the Daffodil Line".</p> <p>Peter Gratton and Bob Carter commenced our "take the bus and go for a walk this year" when they did the 44 bus to Hoarwithy in June. That was quickly followed by Mary and my walk using the 232 bus to Gorsley and then our trip on 232 to Ledbury and out to Wellington Heath all in June and then Chris and Jan's walk in October when they went to Gorsley. Since then, we've done another 7 bus walks taking either the 44 or the 232.</p> <p>Now the most important part which I know you have all been wanting to hear – who has won the two important categories this year.</p> <p>Who has lead the most: Top 3 are: in third place – Pauline (12), in second place myself (15), but the person who has lead the most this year is Mary R (18). And the committee have done much better this year. (Don only one not lead)</p> <p>New leaders this year: Kevin Graddon, Frank Endersby, Phil Lea, Karen Say, Andy Smith.</p> <p>And then we have who's walked the most number of walks (not distance) - in third place Mary R (50) (289.20 miles), Ruth (53). (279.90 miles) but the members who has won this year unsurprisingly probably is Mary S (57) (324.85 miles)</p> <p>Bob has very kindly help with making up and printing off some graphs. Please do take a look. You will find them all very interesting.</p> </div>	

# ROSS AND DISTRICT WALKING GROUP

Statement of Accounts for Year 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

	2022-23	2023-24		
Receipts				
Subscriptions 2022/23	£334.00			
Subscriptions 2023/24	£330.00	£320.00		
Subscriptions 2024/25		£345.00		
AGM22 Lunch	£12.00			
AGM23 Lunch / AGM 24 Lunch	£380.00	£520.00		
Holiday22 payments received	£289.00			
Holiday23 payments received	£585.00	£9,915.00		
Holiday 24 payments received		£750.00		
BBQ surplus, table sales & Donations	£299.16			
Donations received(exc. BBQ)	£29.00			
Calendars		£243.50		
Skittles 24 event surplus		£16.60		
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£2,238.16</b>	<b>£12,110.10</b>		
Payments				
AGM22 lunch, tea&coffee	£474.00			
AGM22 gift vouchers	£20.00			
AGM23 lunch payments made	£100.00	£400.00		
AGM23 prizes		£20.00		
Skittles23 prizes		£16.95		
Holiday22 payments made	£8,058.58			
Holiday23 payments made	£480.00	£10,020.00		
Holiday24 payments made		£750.00		
Insurance	£100.80	£100.80		
IT expenses	£36.00	£71.93		
Parking donations	£20.00	£75.00		
OS Maps Subscription	£28.99	£28.99		
Charitable donations	£300.00			
Advertising		£30.00		
Bank Charges	£62.87	£60.00		
Calendars		£247.80		
Miscellaneous Expenses	£27.99	£84.92		
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£9,709.23</b>	<b>£11,906.39</b>		
Receipts	£2,238.16	£12,110.10		
Payments	£9,709.23	£11,906.39		
<b>SURPLUS / DEFICIT</b>	<b>£7,471.07</b>	<b>£203.71</b>		
<b>Funds &amp; Assets as at end of</b>	<b>FY2022/23</b>	<b>FY2023/24</b>		
Current Account	£3,467.53	£3,671.24	Funds b/f	£3,467.53
Cash	£0.00	£0.00	Receipts	£12,110.10
<b>Total Funds &amp; Assets</b>	<b>£3,467.53</b>	<b>£3,671.24</b>	Payments	<u>£11,906.39</u>
Less balance held for WW23	£105.00			<u>£3,671.24</u>
Plus deposit c/f for AGM lunch	£100.00			
Less payments held for AGM lunch	£380.00	£520.00		
<b>General Account Funds &amp; Assets</b>	<b>£3,102.53</b>	<b>£3,151.24</b>		

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

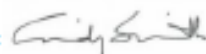
Signed:

Treasurer

Date:

The above statements give a true and fair view of the Receipts and Payments of the Group based on the books and records presented to me.

Signed:



Cindy Smith, Independent Examiner

Dated: 7th April 2024