

## **CHELTENHAM RAMBLING CLUB**

### **76th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at the VICTORY CLUB**

**26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018 7.30PM**

**PRESENT:** *Chairperson, Dave Tomlin. General Secretary, Jenny Cotterell. Treasurer, Trish Ostojitsch. Programme secretary, Paul Finegan, Membership Secretary, Liz Johnson. Ordinary Members, Mary Gyseman, Keith Gyseman, Stephen Wall (Health and Safety Advisor), Lynne Hindmarch and Alan Skidmore.*

CLUB MEMBERS: 25 + 1 guest + 9 committee. Total = 35

Dave welcomed everyone and said it had been a good year.

**APOLOGIES:** Anne Bateman, Ann & Don Mackenzie, Gordon Hall, Angela Gibbins, Allan Jones, Ann Grefstad, Kath Fry.

**MINUTES:** The 2017 AGM minutes were taken as read and approved.

**MATTERS ARISING:** None

#### **REPORTS:**

##### **Treasurer:**

CRC Treasurer's report for AGM 2018

A very mixed message. Income: Overall down on 2017. Membership - down on 2017 and on its own insufficient to support the expenses of the club during the past year. Interest on reserve deposit - up marginally due to a minimal interest rate increase. Rambler's holidays: This is the most we have had from our walking partnership and I would like to thank the six members who mentioned the club when they booked their Rambler's holidays. We got a donation that was a minimum of £20 per member from each of their bookings. It is this income that has allowed me to show a profit on these accounts. This obviously cannot be guaranteed for future years. Expenditure. Down on previous year. Key changes AGM costs - down due to the change in refreshment policy. Committee Room Hire: Up due to Victory Club, with little warning, substantially raising their prices as they were not unsurprisingly covering costs. Room hire is competitive and venue is central. RA affiliation/Public liability insurance; cost increases every year. Approved walk expenses: down (no minibuses for walks this year), figure shown for current year is for OS online for the programme secretary and will be a recurring annual cost. Walkover expenses. Up, totally unpredictable from year to year and tend to arrive just before the accounts close. Website. Monthly package fee increased mid-2017. First year we have had to pay the increased cost for the full 12 months. Donations/tributes: Once again made £50 donations to each of the Cotswold Conservation Board and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust on behalf of the club and would propose, unless anyone has strong objections, to do the same for the coming year. Other activities: 2018 Coach holiday broke even. Prepaid costs: Part year insurance, deposits for 2018 Xmas meal and 2019 coach holiday. Club remains financially viable, has reserves that could be drawn on and therefore currently there are no proposals to change membership fees should income continue to fall. Finally thanks to Angela Gibbins for examining the accounts and agreeing to continue next year.

Trish Ostojitsch 26.11.18

The accounts were accepted as correct.

*Proposer:* Stephen Wall

*Secunder:* Paul Finegan

All in agreement

**Programme Secretary**

**CHELTENHAM RAMBLING CLUB  
WALK REPORT 2017-2018 (2016-2017)**

**STATISTICS**

<b>Walk Type and Number</b>	<b>Average Attendance</b>
Saturday 43 (44)	11.7 (14.4)
Sunday 20 (22)	13.8 (16.9)
Evening 18 (19)	16.4 (16.1)
Morning 31 (33)	15.3 (15.9)
<b>Total 112 (118)</b>	<b>13.8(15.3) Overall Average Attendance</b>

(All data taken from 1st November 2017 to 31st October 2018)

(Figures in brackets are from 2017)

**Walks cancelled: 14. No Walk Offered: 2 (1 Saturday, 1 Sunday)**

Total miles	854	(831)
Average Length	7.62	(7.04)
Total Attendance	1548	(1806)

**NOTES**

Total walks offered in 2018: 126 (14 cancelled) 112 walked, against 119 in 2017 (1 cancelled)

There were 2 dates with no walk offered one Saturday and one Sunday (11 in 2017)

Attendances on Saturdays, Sundays and Midweek morning walks were down.

Evening walks were slightly up. The total attendance was 258 down on 2017

Total number of walk leaders 47, 38 if you don't count couples, 9 of which were new leaders. 36 in 2017.

**Most walks led:** 1st David & Liz 12 walks, 2nd Allan Jones 10 walks, 3rd Mary Harris 7 walks.

**Highest attendance on a walk:** 29 David & Liz on their evening walk on Cleeve Common.

**Events 2018**

Scarborough Coach & Hotel Weekend.	May Day Weekend	David & Liz
Rail walks.		David & Liz
The Bs Have it!		Guy V
Christmas Meal at the Exmouth.		Jenny and Lynne
Visits to NT and other houses.		Robert & Janet, Angela G & Allan J.

**Events 2019**

Llandudno Coach & Hotel weekend	May Whit Weekend	Jenny & Carol
The B's have it		Guy V
DIY weekend	Nothing planned.	

Paul Finegan  
Programme Secretary.

Robert Aubrey requested that walk leaders could consider 'walks in woods' during the summer months.

**Membership Secretary:**

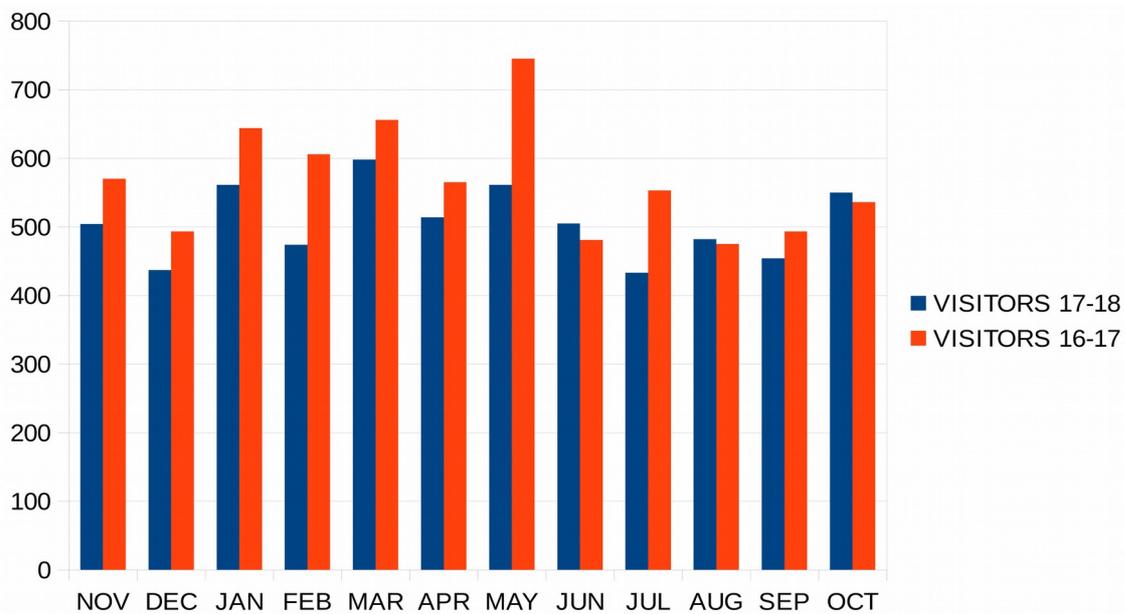
Liz reported that memberships are down, but numbers are similar to 2015 figures.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Memberships	143	148	150	144
Members	186	202	204	188

**Cheltenham Rambling Club AGM Website Report 2018**

From November 2017 to October 2018 the web site has indicated some decline in visitors – overall approximately down 11%. The best month was March (598) and the worst July (433). However, even with the better monthly figures there was a decline, when comparing this year and last. My best theory is that if we assume that many visitors to the web site are new to the club, then the weather may have had some influence. The winter continued into early March and at the first sign of decent weather, people may have started looking for our site amongst other outdoor activities. There was a dip in the summer months (except for June) compared to the previous year – again the prolonged heatwave, which is nice on the beach, but strength-sapping for walkers, may have deterred people from walking. Supporting this theory is that there were slight increases year-on-year for the cooler weather months of August and October.

Another explanation is that the re-designed web-site in the previous year was still relatively new and the novelty value of the current design may have worn off. Whatever the explanation; I'll keep an eye on where the figures go in the coming year.



I welcome the increase in members photos for the site (some of them really stunning) – please keep sending them – they enable the site to maintain an up-to-date feel. On the gallery page, I continue to add new pictures and trim the quantity of photos. Please don't be offended if your favourite picture has been taken down.

Please report any problems you might experience viewing the site on mobile devices. I understand that the current design has been ok on mobiles and the hosting provider design tool indicates that the site is adapted for this purpose.

I'm happy to continue to manage the website for another year. However, I'm now at 11 years in this unofficial role and if anyone fancies taking it on, I'll be happy to give a hand-over. It does not require any great quantity of time or technical ability, just enthusiasm to bring fresh ideas and keep it updated.

Chris West November 2018

### **Rambler's Association Report:**

Dave welcomed Bernard Gill from the Gloucester Area R.A.

Bernard said it was nice to see a vibrant club with a good turnout for the AGM!

He said that the R.A. are concerned about membership numbers. The number of hits on their website is down, as is membership – by 2%. They have a new Chief Executive, Vanessa Griffiths, who has come from the National Trust. Her main role is to boost membership.

He said the Path Watch App (free mobile App) is proving popular. It is used for reporting problems e.g. broken fences etc. GCC (who are taking back the contract from Amey) are good at picking up messages but he wasn't sure how proactive they were in doing repairs.

Bikes on paths continues to be an issue. The bike lobby is strong and the Government seem keen on promoting cycling. The RA is not keen on sharing footpaths.

Locally the RA is involved in a campaign at the Air Balloon roundabout on A417. The Cotswold Way and Gloucestershire Way converge at that point. The road is under discussion to be diverted to ease traffic congestion. The RA have suggested that, instead of demolishing the pub to make a deep cutting, a road tunnel could go under the pub, which could then remain as a meeting and refreshment stop for walkers and cyclists. Highways England apparently like the idea but has not gone any further.

Bernard suggested looking out for the 'Walking Together' event which will take place later next year.

The Area AGM will be held on January 19<sup>th</sup> 2019, 10 for 10.30 am, at Coleford Catholic Hall for anyone interested.

Dave thanked Bernard for his time.

### **ELECTION of OFFICERS and COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Dave Tomlin stood down as Chair after eight years of service – a great effort!

#### **Nominations received:**

Chair, Jenny Cotterell

*Proposed:* Dave Tomlin      *Seconded:* Trish Ostojitsch      *Vote:* accepted unanimously

General Secretary, Alan Skidmore

*Proposed:* Jenny Cotterell      *Seconded:* Lynne Hindmarch      *Vote:* accepted unanimously

*Remaining Officers:* Liz Johnson (Membership), Paul Finegan (Programme Secretary), Trish Ostojitsch (Treasurer)

*Remaining Ordinary Members:* Stephen Wall (health and safety advisor), Keith Gyseman, Mary Gyseman and Lynne Hindmarch were nominated en bloc.

*Proposed:* John White      *Seconded:* Des Fry      *Vote:* accepted unanimously

Janet Aubrey came forward as an Ordinary Member of the committee.

*Proposed:* Dave Tomlin      *Seconded:* Trish Ostojitsch      *Vote:* accepted unanimously

*Total Committee Members:* 10

Web Master: Chris West was re-elected in his respective role.

*Proposed:* Liz Johnson      *Seconded:* Paul Finegan      *Vote:* accepted unanimously

Examiner of Accounts: Angela Gibbins

*Proposed:* Trish Ostojitsch      *Seconded:* Liz Johnson      *Vote:* accepted unanimously

## **MOTIONS:**

One motion was received this year.

[‘The Club is committed to protecting and respecting members’ privacy. The Club’s Privacy Policy, describing the processing of personal data, is posted on the website. A paper copy is available from the Membership Secretary. In line with the Data Protection Act 1998 the Policy, and the data protection and information governance procedures it relates to, will be reviewed in May each year.’](#)

*Proposed:* Lynne Hindmarch      *Seconded:* Jenny Cotterell      *Vote:* motion carried.

This will now become rule 17, the dissolution rule becoming rule 18.

Jenny thanked Lynne for all her work on this topic.

## **A.O.B.**

a. Health and Safety: Stephen reported there had been two accidents on walks this year. One a broken leg, the other a damaged wrist. Nothing could have been done to prevent these.

Stephen suggested it was advisable, if using walking poles, to use two rather than one. He also said he was concerned about people walking in jeans rather than ‘walking trousers’ and felt that, in his opinion, these were more sensible.

Bernard Gill from the R.A. said that someone had died on a walk recently. The group were understandably very upset. He said the R.A. offers a counselling service in such circumstances.

David Johnson put forward the suggestion of some type of First Aid / Health & Safety training at the next AGM. This will be discussed by committee.

Stephen would like to step down from his role of Health & Safety Officer on the committee at the next AGM. Please talk to Stephen if you’re interested in taking this on.

b. Retiring Officers

Dave has stepped down after eight long years as Chair! Jenny thanked him profusely for all he had done for the club and presented him with a book – 'The Birds of Chile.' Dave and Mary have a holiday planned to said country next February. We hope they have a wonderful time. He was given a hearty round of applause! We hope to see Dave out on many walks!

c. Holidays:

1. Llandudno – May 2019: Jenny Cotterell is receiving bookings and Carol Sadie is receiving offers to lead walks. There are twin, double and single rooms still available.

2. 2019 DIY – Any suggestions and a volunteer to organise for next year, please come forward.

d. Events:

Jenny and Lynne are pleased to report that 35 out of possible 36 (now fully booked) have booked for the Christmas meal at the Exmouth Arms.

They plan to hold a Ten Pin Bowling outing in the spring, so please look out for that in the next Programme.

e. Donations of £50 to each of two charities to be decided.

It was unanimously agreed to make the two donations the same as last year, i.e;

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

Cotswold Wardens

The Meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

The date of the next AGM is 25th November 2019

