

## CHELTENHAM RAMBLING CLUB

### 77th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at the VICTORY CLUB

25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2019 @ 7.30PM

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

CLUB MEMBERS: 31 + 2 guests + 9 committee. Total = 42

Jenny welcomed everyone and said it had been a good year for the club, notable events had been the Christmas Meal at the Exmouth Arms, 10 Pin Bowling in the Brewery Centre and the club holiday to Llandudno.

**APOLOGIES:** Chris & Rosemary Bates, Geoffrey Rowe, Guy Vowles and Sue West.

**MINUTES:** The 2018 AGM minutes were taken as read and approved.

**MATTERS ARISING: None**

#### **REPORTS:**

##### Treasurer:

CRC Treasurer's report for AGM 2019

INCOME for the accounting year 2018/19 was slightly down on that of the previous year but it is encouraging to see that income from memberships (where the bulk of our revenue derives from) actually showed an increase on the previous year's figures.

Nat West bank increased the interest rate on the reserve account from 0.1 to 0.5% which roughly corresponds to 40p per month extra

The club coach holiday made a £3 accidental profit. All other planned activities broke even. The 10p donation was a random find on the way to the bank.

Once again we derived some income from the Ramblers walking partnership and I would again like to express my thanks to those members who took Ramblers holidays in the past year and nominated the club as the recipient. The income we derive from this source helps subsidise activities that appear as approved walk expenses on the balance sheet.

EXPENSES were slightly higher than the previous year. Many of the costs involved in the day to day running of the club increased, as could reasonably be expected, by a couple of pounds or more.

The great unpredictable that is walkover expense claims actually decreased this year while approved walk expenses increased.

The committee approved the following as walk expenses: the programme secretary's O.S. subscription, which will be an ongoing yearly expense a 'one off' payment of car parking fees in an effort to encourage and retain an occasional walk leader, room hire for the map reading

session led by Stephen Wall and a transport subsidy for the first two legs of Guy Vowles' Canal walk.

On behalf of the club membership I made a £50 donation to each of the following: The Cotswold Conservation Board and The Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

We have prepaid the first quarter of the 2019/2020 Public liability Insurance and put down deposits for the forthcoming Christmas meal and the 2020 coach holiday .

The club accounts for the year show a small profit (though smaller than the previous year) and we have an untouched reserve account so we are still a financially viable organisation.

Finally I would like to thank Angela Gibbins for again acting as auditor.

Trish Ostojitsch 24.11.19

The accounts were accepted as correct.

*Proposer:* Paul Finegan

*Seconder:* Lynne Hindmarch

All in agreement

### **Programme Secretary**

## **CHELtenham RAMBLING CLUB WALK REPORT 2018-2019 (2017-2018)**

### **STATISTICS**

<b><u>Walk Type and Number</u></b>		<b><u>Average Attendance</u></b>
Saturday	47 (43)	10.6 (11.7)
Sunday	24 (20)	11.7 (13.8)
Evening	16 (18)	14.7 (16.4)
Morning	30 (31)	16.7 (15.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>117 (112)</b>	<b>12.97 (13.8) Overall Average Attendance</b>

**Walks cancelled: 7 No walks offered: 1 (Saturday)**

Total Miles 882.6 (854.15)

Average Length 7.54 (7.62)

Total Attendance 1,517 (1,548)

All data is taken from 1st November 2018 to 31st October 2019

Figures in the brackets are from 2018

### **NOTES**

Total walks offered in 2019: 124 (7 cancelled) 117 walked. (2018: 126 offered (14 cancelled) 112 walked)

There was one date when there wasn't a walk was offered in 2019 against two in 2018.

Attendances for the morning walks were up on last year, but Saturday, Sunday and Evening walks were down. The Midweek morning walks were higher in the Winter and Summer and lower in the Spring. The turnout for Sunday and the Midweek evening walks were also lower throughout the year than 2018.

Total number of walk leaders 43 (47) 4 (9) of which were new leaders.

**Most walks led:** 1st Dave & Mary 13 walks, 2nd David & Liz 12 walks, and 3rd Guy 8 walks.

**Highest attendance on a walk:** 37 for Dave T 's Celebration walk.

### **Events 2019**

Christmas Meal at the Exmouth.		Lynne H
Ten Pin Bowling Night.		Lynne H
Llandudno Coach and Hotel Weekend.	Whit Bank Holiday	Jenny & Carol
Wiveliscombe DIY Weekend.	6th July	Guy V
Cotswold Canal Walks and the B's have it!		Guy V
Monarch's Way walk.		David & Liz
Winchester Walk.		Martin V

### **Events 2020**

Isle of Wight Coach and Hotel weekend	April 17th to 20 <sup>th</sup>	David & Liz
Cotswold Canals and the B's have it!		Guy V
Monarch's Way		David & Liz
DIY Weekend	Nothing planned	

### **And finally, a message from the programme secretary**

When I took on the role of Programme Secretary in 2017 it was with the intention of doing it for three years. As I have just completed two years, I will be standing down at the AGM next year. With that in mind someone will need to come forward in the next twelve months to take over the role. If anyone is interested in doing this then contact me or a member of the committee.

Regards

Paul Finegan  
Programme Secretary

### **Membership Secretary:**

Liz reported that memberships are up on 2018, but numbers are similar to those of 2017.

	<b><u>2019</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>
Memberships	149	144	150
Members	195	188	204

### **Cheltenham Rambling Club AGM Website Report 2019**

From November 2018 to October 2019 the web site has shown a broad increase in visitors with a year-on-year increase for all months except for October. This increase was particularly strong in the summer months June to August, although there was also a significant increase at the start of the year, particularly in January and February.

## Headlines:

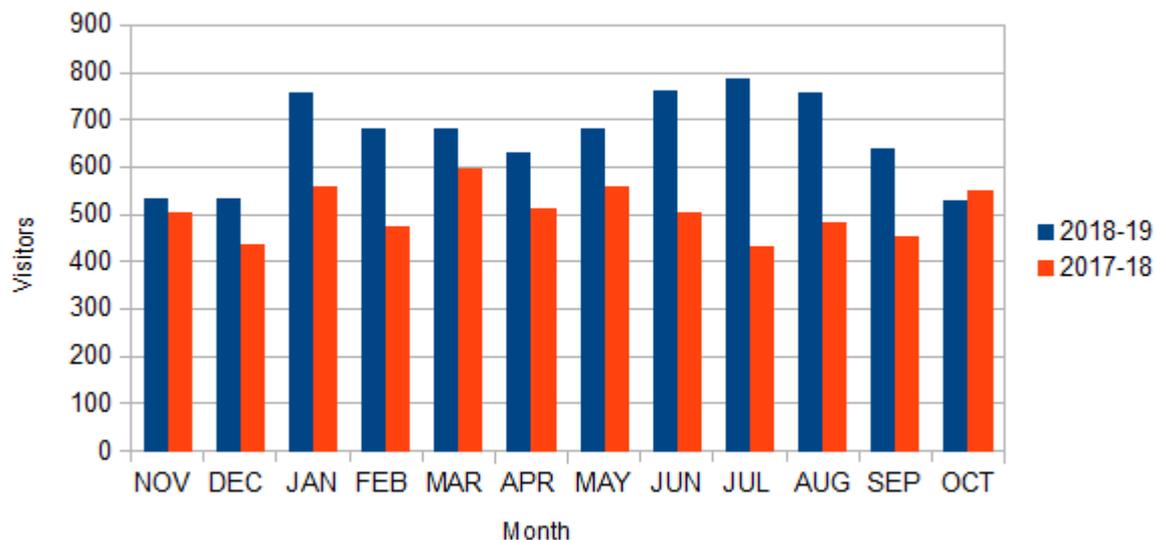
Highest number of visitors – July (788). 82% year-on-year increase.

Lowest number of visitors – October (528). -4% year-on-year decrease.

Generally, 3 website pages are looked at per session.

It won't come as any surprise, that the strongest theory I can offer, is once again the influence of the weather. This year has not seen a repeat of the heatwave of 2018, making summer walking more comfortable for walkers. Equally, the appalling weather in October this year, easily accounts for the drop in interest in venturing outdoors.

CRC website visitors: comparing 2018-19 with previous 12 months.



During the year, our website hosting company changed name to IONOS – as result of merger (I think). From our point of view, the costs and service currently remain comparable with those in the past, but I'll keep an eye on how things develop going forward.

Thanks to all of our photographers who continue to send me some fascinating, funny and in the case of sunsets - stunning – pictures for use on the gallery page. I try to keep the age of photos to no more than 2 years and so I trim the quantity as new ones come in, to keep the website current. Please don't be offended if your favourite picture has been taken down.

I'm happy to continue to manage the website for another year. It is now relatively low maintenance and does not take up very much of my time. However, if anyone wishes to take it on and inject new ideas, I would be happy to give a hand-over.

Chris West (November 2019)

## Rambler's Association Report:

Jenny welcomed Bernard Gill from the Gloucester Area R.A. and Michelle Holden from the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

Bernard reported the Gloucestershire RA membership was down 2% over the year and it was good to see the Cheltenham Rambling Club was bucking the trend with its membership up on the previous year and a good turnout for the AGM!

Bernard promoted the Path Watch App (a free mobile App) which is used for reporting problems. It has also resulted in 'Lost Ways' - old paths that are used but not on the map, being reinstated.

Bernard also highlighted a situation where a private home owner erected gates across a bridleway on Bentley Lane, Cleeve Hill. Following intervention by the RA and negotiation with the individual who had erected the gates, these gates were eventually removed by the Cleeve group.

Bernard mentioned the success of the first 'Walking Together' event and thanked Peter Longman for leading a walk.

Bernard went on to report on the current situation regarding the rerouting of the A417 which will result in the demolishing of the Air Balloon public house and a number of footpath diversions. A Green Bridge was originally proposed as a means for wildlife to cross the A417 but in new proposals this Green Bridge will also be used for walkers and a bridleway as well. The new A 417 plan is not considered to be green enough.

Jenny thanked Bernard for his time and attendance.

### **Election of Officers and Committee Members**

The following committee members were re-elected 'en bloc' - *Chairperson*, Jenny Cotterell. *General Secretary*, Alan Skidmore. *Treasurer*, Trish Ostojitsch. *Programme secretary*, Paul Finegan, *Membership Secretary*, Liz Johnson, Stephen Wall (Health and Safety Advisor), Lynne Hindmarch and Janet Aubrey.

*Proposed:* David Tomlin      *Seconded:* Angela Gibbins      *Vote:* accepted unanimously

### **Nominations received for new ordinary members:**

Peter Heffer

*Proposed:* Jenny Cotterell      *Seconded:* Alan Skidmore      *Vote:* accepted unanimously

Carol Sadie

*Proposed:* Lynne Hindmarch      *Seconded:* Trish Ostojitsch      *Vote:* accepted unanimously

Liz Johnson – the current Membership Secretary will be handing her role over to Lynne Hindmarch during the year.

Examiner of Accounts: Angela Gibbins was re-elected.

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

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

*Proposed:* Liz Johnson      *Seconded:* Alan Skidmore      *Vote:* accepted unanimously

## A.O.B.

a. Health and Safety: Stephen Wall said that fortunately there was little to report this year however, he will be standing down as the Health and Safety Officer at next year's AGM, please talk to Stephen if you're interested in taking this on. He did suggest that all club members should carry a First Aid Kit and First Aid training should be looked into.

### b. Talk on 'Safe Walking' by Sue Maizonnier

Sue gave a talk on safe walking. She said she based her talk on the 'Cheltenham Rambling Club's Health and Safety Guidance for All Members' which can be found on the club's website: [cheltenhamramblingclub.org.uk](http://cheltenhamramblingclub.org.uk). The essence of Sue's talk was about taking personal responsibility for safety and being considerate to others.

### c. Retiring Officers and Committee Members

Jenny Cotterell announced that Keith and Mary Gyseman were stepping down as committee members and thanked them on behalf of the club for their efforts. Keith and Mary received a round of applause from all present.

### d. Holidays Updates:

Isle of Wight – April 2020: David Johnson said that 2 x twin rooms were still available. Anyone interested in going should send their booking form to David (form in current programme). David said the hotel is a good hotel and nice walks are being offered each day.

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

The club Treasurer (Trish Ostojtsch) said the club has made donations to the Cotswold Wardens and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust for a number of years and felt it was time to review these donations. It was suggested we drop our support for the Cotswold Wardens (who are well funded) and support the Cleeve Common Conservators instead, an area where all club members walk regularly. This was unanimously agreed as was continuing support for the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. It was unanimously agreed to make donations to the following:

The Cleeve Common Conservators (post meeting note; now renamed the Cleeve Common Trust)

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

### f. Walk Leaders not going to pick up points.

This topic of Walk Leaders not going to pick up points was discussed. If a walk leader lives outside Cheltenham but close to the area of their walk it is unreasonable to expect them to first go to the pick-up point in Cheltenham. It was requested that walk leaders not going to the Cheltenham pick-up point should state this in the programme and if possible, ask a club member who normally goes to the pick-up point to check no club members are left behind without a lift.

There was no other business.

The Meeting closed at 8.47 pm.

The date of the next AGM is 9th November 2020