

CHELTENHAM RAMBLING CLUB

78th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at the VICTORY CLUB

22nd NOVEMBER 2021 @ 7.30PM

PRESENT: *Chairperson (Outgoing)*, Jenny Cotterell. *General Secretary (and Health and Safety Advisor)*, Alan Skidmore. *Treasurer (Outgoing)*, Trish Ostojitsch. *Programme secretary*, Paul Finegan (Outgoing), *Membership Secretary*, Lynne Hindmarch. *Ordinary Members*, Liz Johnson, Carol Sadie.

CLUB MEMBERS: 28 + 2 guests + 7 committee. Total = 37

Jenny welcomed everyone and said it was wonderful to be back at the Victory Club and holding an AGM following the disruption due to Covid. The AGM scheduled for November 2020 had not been held and a 2020 AGM Report had been issued in its place.

APOLOGIES: Robert & Janet Aubrey, Nick & Maggie Moon, Margaret Devers, Barbara Pettit, Debra Barrett, Sue Maizonnier, Margaret Churchman, Sandra Handscombe, Irene Dixon, Blanche Shill and Peter Heffer.

MINUTES: The 2019 AGM minutes were taken as read and approved.

MATTERS ARISING: None

REPORTS:

Treasurer:

CRC Treasurer's report for AGM 2021

This is my last report to the club. It will probably go down in the annals of club history as the first year in which the Treasurer has presided over a loss on the year and one that I will admit was deliberately engineered.

Income

The bulk of our income always comes from membership subscriptions and the past year was no different. However it came purely from new memberships . Rejoining members were given a free year to recompense for the previous year's programme being so disrupted , firstly by a very wet winter and then a pandemic.

One member generously donated his membership fee to help defer our expenses.

Interest rates plummeted yet again.

I wasn't anticipating any money from our partnership with Ramblers holidays but one member remembered the club link when they took a UK holiday. Every little helps as the slogan goes.

Expenditure

As there was no AGM there were no expenses relating to that and I couldn't be given a mandate from the membership to make the customary donations to charity.

There were only two face to face committee meetings, the majority being conducted by zoom. The Victory Club raised their hire prices at the start of 2020 and again on re opening in 2021, the figures shown are a hybrid of both year's prices.

As the Club's walking programme didn't restart until mid summer membership and programme expenses were low.

Our Ramblers affiliation, Public Liability Insurance and the programme secretary's O.S subscription (approved walk expenses) remain within pence of previous years.

There was a large increase in the monthly fees charged by our website provider and hence in our website running costs but investigation shows that these appear to be in line with others in the sector.

The pandemic obviously put paid to any other activities the club would normally organise but the deposit paid back in 2019 for the Club's holiday to the Isle of Wight has again been carried forward - fingers crossed the holiday will finally happen.

Finally I would like to give thanks to Angela Gatliff for keeping my spreadsheets running and being the examiner of accounts throughout my time in office.

Trish Ostojtsch 19.11.21.

The accounts were accepted as correct.

Proposer: Dave Tomlin

Seconder: Martin Ward

All in agreement

Programme Secretary

CHELTENHAM RAMBLING CLUB WALK REPORT 2021 (2019)

STATISTICS FOR SUMMER 2021

All data is taken from 24th June 2021 to 31st October 2021

FIGURES IN BRACKETS ARE FROM THE 25th JUNE 2019 (SUMMER PROGRAMME)

Total 39 (42) Walks Overall attendance = 396 (489) Overall Avg 10.15 (12.22)

Total Mile 269.6 m (308m) Average Length 6.9 m (7.3m)

Walk Day	Number of walks	Average Attendance	Average miles walked
Saturday	17(16)	5.76 (8.56)	9.56 m (10.87 m)
Sunday	5 (8)	10 (11.37)	6.12 m (6.94 m)
Evening	9 (10)	14.22 (15.4)	4.14 m (4.28 m)
Morning	8 (8)	15 (16)	4.9 m (4.46 m)

Most walks led: 5 by Mary and Dave.

Highest attendance: 20 on two occasions. On walks led by Mary H and Lynne H

Walks cancelled: 5 (3 down to covid rules) (1) No walks offered: 6 (0) no walk offers for the summer programme. (Anthony did fill 3 of those dates later)

17 no walk offers for the winter programme

The attendances on all the walks were lower than Summer 2019, particularly Saturday walks.

The miles walked, apart from mid-week morning walks, were also lower than 2019.

Just to show the decline in Saturday walks, the figures for Summer 2018 were:

The average attendance was 10.92 and the average miles walked being 12 miles.

We have been using Meetup in tandem with the summer programme which has proved to be useful for filling in any vacant dates. This will be discussed at the AOB section of the AGM.

Events for 2022: Coach weekend to the Isle of Wight organised by David and Liz.

Average Attendances

Saturday attendances down from 8.56 in 2019 to 5.76 in 2021

Sunday attendances down from 11.37 in 2019 to 10 in 2021

Midweek evening down from 15.4 in 2019 to 14.22 in 2021

Midweek morning down from 16 in 2019 to 15 in 2021

Mileage:

Saturday: Down from 10.87m in 2019 to 9.56m in 2021

Sunday: Down from 6.94m in 2019 to 6.12m in 2021

Midweek Evening: Marginally down from 4.28m in 2019 to 4.14m in 2021

Midweek Morning: Up from 4.46m in 2019 to 4.9m in 2021

Regards

Paul Finegan

Membership Secretary:

Below is the up-to-date membership information for 2021, along with the figures from the Annual Reports for the last 2 years for comparison. At the beginning of this year I deleted a number of names from the membership database, as they had not paid membership fees for more than 2 years, and had either decided not to rejoin or didn't reply to invitations to renew their membership

for 2021 (which was free). After these names were deleted, the number of memberships still stood at 137, and members at 165.

Fourteen new members joined the Club during 2021, which is a significant improvement on just three new members in 2020. We warmly welcome the new members to the Club.

Year	2021	2020	2019
Memberships	139	137	149
Members	179	180	195

Lynne Hindmarch

Cheltenham Rambling Club AGM Website Report 2021

Looking at the figures for the website visits, the trend roughly follows the national situation during the year when lockdown prevented all walking - particularly in January-February period - with the situation not really picking up until September-October time when a full programme was reintroduced. During the summer period it was the use of Meetup (not the website) that allowed the club to advertise the small group walking that was permitted at that point and so the website is only now starting to return to its main function.

During the year I also made the committee aware that we had quite a significant price rise (now £18 a month) in the site hosting due to our previous hosting company being taken over by IONOS, which now provides our hosting. I did some investigating regarding the hosting prices and found that while headline prices can look quite cheap across competing providers, if we wanted decent software support for the functionality of the website, then we were probably using the right medium-range package for the job. So for the moment, the committee has asked that I continue with things as they are.

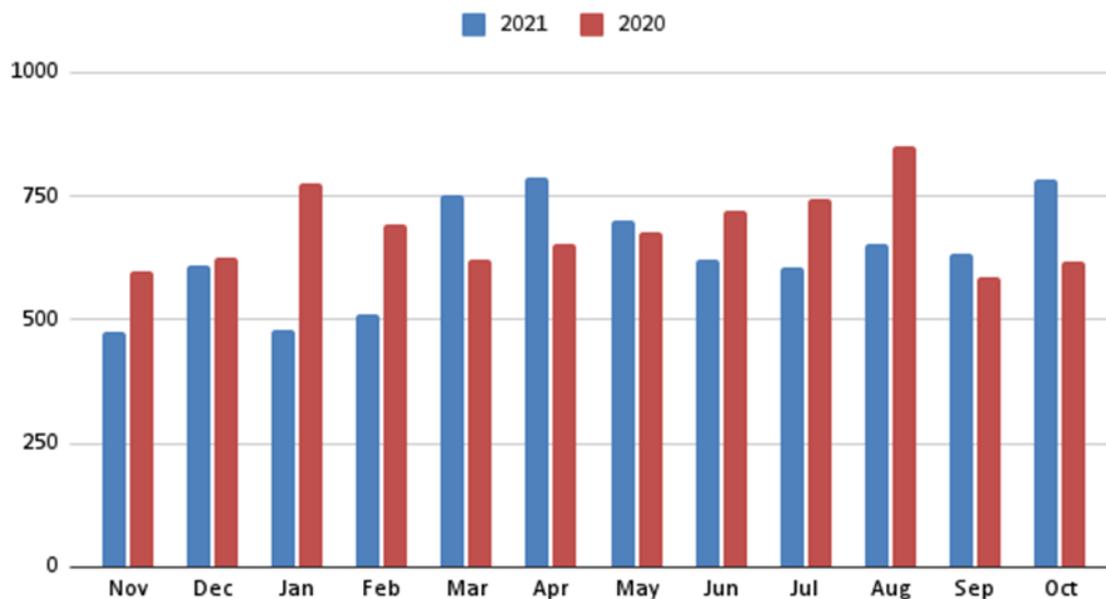
Again a big **thank you** to those who sent in photos. It always helps keep the website looking fresh and is sometimes a good way of saying thank you to your walk leader.

Headline figures:

Highest number of visitors – October (784). 26.9% year-on-year increase.

Lowest number of visitors – January (479). -38.1% year-on-year decrease.

CRC website visitors comparison: 2020-21



While I'm happy to continue maintaining the website - I'm also willing to step down if anyone wants to take on the job. The site is probably due a redesign and could probably do with an injection of new ideas. The site is relatively low maintenance and does not require a technical background. If there is someone keen to do the job, I will of course provide help and a period of hand over for them.

Chris West (November 2021)

Rambler's Association Report:

Jenny welcomed Michele Holden, the Gloucestershire Ramblers Area Chair.

Michele reported that the aim of the Ramblers Association (RA) is to defend footpaths and rights of way, and to lead guided walks. She said there are a lot of people out walking and membership of the RA has increased.

Michele said that locally the Cheltenham Circular path is fully open, a section of the Gloucestershire Way from Shurdington to Crickley Hill has been kept open. The RA are now working to save a footpath in Leckhampton from Farm Lane to Kidnappers Lane from closure. In a development in Swindon Village a footpath has been kept plus green space along boundaries.

There are three national trails that pass through Gloucestershire; Offa's Dyke path, the Cotswold Way and the Thames Path. The RA work to maintain these trails. The Cotswold Way had its 50th Anniversary Celebration in May 2020.

Finally, Michele reported that the RA has a number of Local Area groups, a new logo and a new website which she encouraged all members to visit.

Jenny thanked Michele for her time and attendance.

Post meeting note: Michele told Jenny that she had visited a number of rambling club AGMs

recently and the Cheltenham Rambling Club's AGM was the best attended.

Election of Officers and Committee Members

The following club officers are standing down from their roles: Jenny Cotterell (Chair), Trish Ostojitsch (Treasurer) and Paul Finegan (Programme Secretary). Jenny will be staying on the committee as an ordinary member whilst Trish and Paul are leaving the committee. Stephen Wall (Health and Safety Advisor) stood down as an ordinary member and has left the committee.

Post meeting note: Peter Heffer sent an email to Jenny Cotterell giving his belated apologies for not attending the AGM and also stated he will be resigning from the committee due to health reasons.

Nominations received for new club officers:

Chair: Carol Sadie

Proposed: Jenny Cotterell, *Seconded:* Liz Johnson *Vote:* carried unanimously

Treasurer: Judi Noble

Proposed: Marion Nicholson, *Seconded:* Trish Ostojitsch *Vote:* carried unanimously

Programme Secretary: Liz Johnson

Proposed: Gordon Hall, *Seconded:* Simon Slee *Vote:* carried unanimously

No new ordinary members were elected.

The following committee members were re-elected 'en bloc' - General Secretary, Alan Skidmore, Membership Secretary, Lynne Hindmarch. Ordinary members: Jenny Cotterell and Janet Aubrey.

Proposed: Trish Ostojitsch: *Seconded:* Paul Finegan *Vote:* carried unanimously

Examiner of Accounts: Angela Gibbins was re-elected.

Proposed: Liz Johnson *Seconded:* Lynne Hindmarch *Vote:* carried unanimously

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

Proposed: Dave Tomlin *Seconded:* Mike Gibson *Vote:* carried unanimously

Motion

One motion has been submitted by the committee; 'To remove rule 4 which entitles people residing under one roof to have a subsidised membership, but instead for "all adult members to pay a full subscription" (currently £5.50) per annum.

Following some discussion this motion was put to the vote, all present were in favour of the motion with the exception of one objection.

A.O.B.

a. Health and Safety: (Alan Skidmore)

Fortunately I am unaware of any recent accidents suffered by club members whilst on a club walk.

As I have your attention I would like to direct you to 2 documents you can find on the Cheltenham Rambling Club website:

- 1) Health and Safety Guidance for all club members.
- 2) Guidance for Walk Leaders.

I suggest you all read both documents. In section 12 of the Guidance for Walk Leaders titled 'Safety First' it states 'It is a rule of the Club that the Club accepts no liability for member's health or safety, so members walk at their own risk. Most problems can be overcome through common sense'.

Health and Safety is applied common sense and each club member is responsible for their own health and safety!

As we are approaching winter and the Cotswolds are notoriously muddy, please be careful when walking and use walking poles if necessary to avoid slips, trips and falls.

b. Meetup – an update

A lively debate on the use of Meetup by the club took place. The majority are in favour of using meetup whilst a small minority are against it. As the current programme contains a number of 'No Walk' dates, Meetup is seen as the ideal tool for filling these gaps at relatively short notice. Bernard Gill from the RA advised the meeting that 'younger' RA walkers use Meetup to arrange their walks. Martin Ward proposed that the club continue to use Meetup in parallel with the traditional club programme for the next 12 months then review at the next AGM. The proposal was put to the meeting and agreed unanimously.

c. Holidays Update:

Isle of Wight – April / May 2022: David Johnson said that bookings have been good and only one twin room and one single room were still available. Anyone interested in going should send their booking form to David (form in current programme).

d. Recipients of this year's charitable donations

At the last AGM (November 2019) the members agreed to donate £50.00 to the Cleeve Common Trust and £50.00 to the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. Trish proposed we donate to the same charities again as all club members walk regularly on Cleeve Common and local walks are enhanced by the efforts of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. The proposal was put to the vote and all present agreed with the exception of one member

e. Retiring Officers and committee members – welcome new Chair

Jenny Cotterell welcomed Carol Sadie as the new Chairperson of the Cheltenham Rambling Club.

Carol thanked in turn; Trish Ostojitsch for the work she had carried in the role of treasurer, Paul Finegan for the work he had undertaken in the role of Programme Secretary and finally Jenny Cotterell for the work she had carried in the role of Chairperson. Carol then presented each outgoing officer with a gift from the club (paid for from the Val French fund, not club funds). Carol also thanked Stephen Wall for his long service on the committee and for being Health and Safety Officer. In each case the outgoing officer received a round of applause from all present.

There was no other business.

The Meeting closed at 8.48 pm.

The next AGM will be held in November 2022