

**Draft Minutes**  
**Sheffield 40's Walking Group AGM**  
**19<sup>th</sup> November 2023 3.45pm**  
**at the Bradfield School Rooms**

**1. Attendance**

Committee members present:

Liz Sharp, Chair. Keith Hopkinson, Walks Coordinator. Mandy Kippax, Socials and weekends away coordinator. Lucia Contrino, Footpath Officer. Mick Nott, Treasurer. Tracey Reeve, Secretary.

Also in attendance – Martin Wistow, Jade Surah, Dave Depledse, Anne Storer, Bob Burton, Rachel Von Graevenitz, Dennis Crossland, Jean Billingham, Debby Clark, Helen Lewin, James Scott, Jim Bell, Lyn Prosser, Mick foley, Wayne Greensell, Tracey Lyne, Thea Anning,

**Apologies**

Julie Sweeting, Les Mather, Jonathon Yeardeley, Jim Conibear and Anju Keetharuth

**2. Chairs Report**

Liz opened the meeting by welcoming and informing everyone that we have had another good year with membership number up and work on footpaths being successful. We also had many walks and socials.

Liz explained that as she has settled into the role of chair over the last year, she has come to learn that 50% of role of chair is contact with Ramblers UK, either at regional or national level, providing information that they need, and filtering their expectations back to the group.

Ramblers UK have proposed new processes for safety on group walks. Some of their ideas pose some challenges for us, for example, at present they are proposing a minimum ratio of leader to walkers which might be hard for us to achieve. Consultation is ongoing at the moment, but it is ultimately their focus is a good one - to ensure that there is a responsibility for no-one getting hurt on walks.

From the ramblers' point of view, it is important to ensure that we are accessible and that all the people enjoying the UK countryside are able to continue to grow in numbers and variety. We taken some actions to move in this direction: we have encouraged car sharing and have been using Facebook to help with this. Our facebook site makes us quite visible. We are getting lots of new followers on Facebook each week and there is a welcome message that goes out once a week to everyone.

Liz thanked Mick and Keith for their service over the last few years.

**3. Approval of minutes of the Last AGM**

Proposed by attendees and seconded by attendees as a true record of the last meeting.

#### **4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

#### **5. Treasurers Report**

Mick presented a detailed account of the reports for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. A copy of the reports as below can be found in the AGM folder.

End of Year Financial Position  
Financial outcomes of Group events  
Appointment of Independent Auditor  
S40's Reserve policy

Discussion began about the reserves policy. Jillian commented that when surplus got to £1k or above we could reintroduce funding deposits for group accommodation up front. She was asking what the money is kept for and spent on.

The reserve policy was explained. The money covers risk if people don't pay, or that travel companies go bust. Mick read out the text from Ramblers where it suggests how much reserve we should have. The room was told that SYNED have agreed that the policy is right.

Jean asked if anything could be done to help out people who wanted to join a weekend away but couldn't raise the deposit at short notice. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the committee could look into this.

[Action point - Committee to discuss at next meeting and see how we could go forward.](#)

#### **6. Secretary**

Our membership is growing at a steady pace.

The last figures I received from SYNED were for August and at that time we agreed to their figures which were 313 members.

Currently our member figure is 318, which is an increase of 19 from last year. We've actually seen more new faces than that but the figure also takes into account the leavers and movers.

We continue to welcome many new faces into our walking family, the Sheffield 40's.

#### **7. Walks**

169 walks have been placed on our site since the last AGM, of which 8 were cancelled. So 161 walks actually happened. Slightly up from last year.

This included: 21 Evening walks; 140 weekend walks approximately 2.7 per weekend.

Walk leader training.

Training. We have sent 7 people on Linda's one day Peak Navigation course. Also, 10 people went on Alun's OS maps course in June.

All those undertaking a course promised to lead at least one walk in the following year.

## **8 Socials and Weekends**

This year we have had some hugely successful weekends including Reeth, Hebden bridge and Nidderdale. There were also 10 social events.

Mandy thanked Jillian, Jean, Mick and Lyn for their help organising social events. She also thanked walk leaders who had contributed walks during weekends away.

Thanks were additionally offered by Jillian to Jackie, Mick and Jean and Julie for helping to organise Nidderdale.

In December we have the White Lion Christmas meal and the Christmas party at the Steel cauldron, Broomhill.

Next year there is a Coniston weekend away. Mandy asked for walk leaders to volunteer.

## **9. Footpath Officer report**

Lucia explained that her Footpath Officer role has been a learning curve, especially building links with the other Sheffield Ramblers groups and Area Ramblers. She participates in any training that Ramblers has on offer about footpaths so she can gain more knowledge about Public Rights of Way and what landowners can and can't do.

Along with the other Sheffield Ramblers groups, Lucia attended a meeting with the Sheffield City Council Public Rights of Way team in February. This is an annual meeting to share information and it was disappointing to hear that their team had been cut from six members of staff to three, but we must continue to report any footpath issues to them.

Lucia has updated the information on the Path Issues tab on the S40s website about how to report footpath problems - you can either report them to Lucia or go direct to the relevant council. Peak and Northern Footpath Society (PNFS) also has an app that anyone can use.

Since Lucia has been in this role, she's reported a broken gate in Peak Forest to Derbyshire County Council. Ok, it may have taken two months but it got fixed and if it wasn't reported, the gate could still be in a sorry state. Thanks to Martin for letting Lucia know about this which represents my 100% success rate!

Lucia got involved in proposals that Sheffield City Council issues about public rights of way. She worked alongside the other two Ramblers groups locally - the Sheffield group and the 20s/30s - though the position of Area Footpath Officer remains vacant. Nevertheless, the group does their best to work together and respond to consultations from the Council, sometimes including site visits. PNFS are very good at responding to these consultations and we try and work in co-operation with them.

Please report any problems you find on footpaths so they can be put right. Lucia is happy for you to report them to her - she just need a photo and map location. Also, please let her know

if you want to get involved in checking specific footpaths in Sheffield - there used to be a scheme of 15 path wardens doing regular checks but that has fallen by the wayside.

We all need to ensure that we continue to have a good network of footpaths to walk.

## **10. Members expenses and 2023/24 Budget**

(See Treasurer's Report for details)

The members agreed that member expenses same as last year – leaders can claim expenses. 45p per mile, 20p bike.

## **11. Committee Elections**

Treasurer – Charlie Cooper

Walks coordinator – Martin Wistow

Training Coordinator – Helen Lewin

Web Editor – Keith Hopkinson

Chair – Liz Sharp

Footpaths coordinator – Lucia

Secretary – Tracey Reeve

Socials – Mandy Kippax

All proposed and seconded by attendees

## **12. Any Other Business**

Heritage fair in January 20-21 local history type stand/ ramblers stand.

Kit from the group selling pay as you feel.

The AGM ended at 5.10pm