

BATH GROUP AGM
Held on Sunday November 15th 2009
At Corston Village Hall

Diane Adams Chairman
Marilyn Wright Secretary
Christine Day Treasurer
David Waterstone Footpath Sec
Marietta Starbuck Walks Sec
Brian Marsh Publicity
Daphne Lovelace M' ship Sec
Joanna McNicol Co-opted Mbr

Diana Smith
June Cozens
Joy Lory
Sandra Heward
Dolores Corrigan
Robert Wolsey
Margaret Marsh
Liz Coates
David Butterworth
Malcom Furber
Myra Barnes
Mike Perkins
Eileen Davey
Barbara Black
Patrick McCarron
Anna McCarron
Marie Elena Clasper
Margaret Wilson
Brian Wilson

1. **Chairman's Opening Remarks :** The Chairman welcomed new and old members, together with Cate Mack our speaker.
2. **Apologies:** Frank Tompson, Eric Robinson, Sandra Hewitt, Mike Brown, Diane Stone, Hilary Hughes and Diane Atchinson.
3. **Minutes of previous AGM:** Approved.
4. **Matters Arising:** Family Walks to be discussed in detail later in the meeting
5. **Secretary's report:** See attached
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Christine said that income received this year was £640 more than last year. However the amount of expenditure was lower than that of last year by £378. The amount spent on sending out the programme was very similar, although the total last year was higher because of the purchase of a computer package to enable photos to be put on the front of the programme. General expenses were less this year. This was due to several factors. No parish Wardens meetings were held this year. Some officers did not claim expenses, probably they will be claiming in the next financial year. We did not have a slide show at the AGM, so we saved as we did not hire a projector. All this lead to our expenses being roughly half of last year. Despite starting with a low balance, we

ended up with a closing balance of £940. It is Central Office's aim to reduce the amount paid to Area and Groups in the coming year. It is suggested that if the programme was sent to members by E-mail, this would dramatically decrease the funds needed. In Bath Group only a handful of people appear to favour this form of communication. Therefore Bath intends to continue to send out the programme by post and has requested the funds necessary to do this.

7. **Footpath Secretary's Report:** David stated that the survey of countryside 'furniture' had begun with the help of the Cotswold Wardens and two or three reports had been submitted. However it appears that the council have now been granted government funds to have the work carried out by a firm of consultants. Therefore David offered his thanks to all concerned. David said Footpath disputes concerning crops and other obstructions had kept him busy again this year. The request by a Mrs Moore to divert a path from her garden was objected to by the RA as this would have caused a dangerous exit onto a busy road, this has been noted by the council. The Batheaston river path has now been closed by the council for two years, except for a short period of reopening. Nevertheless it appears local people still use this link, which is invaluable to them. David said he has had many meetings in the past with Will Steel and council engineers, and £350,000 has been quoted for the repairs. David questioned this estimate and civil engineers from RA HQ have estimated £30,000 for willow planting along the worn banks and not a huge structure along the whole embankment as suggested by the council. The council have now told David that they are obtaining a new estimate but David said he does not hold up much hope of the council complying although he hopes that they will accept the lower estimate, if not it may mean taking out a section 56 highway act and as the RA have not got the finance at the moment this may not happen. Chelscombe Farm, David has had great success with the diversion of the path that has been a bone of contention for 35 years! Once this has been completed it will provide a link to a ridge path along the top of Lansdown. David suggested that this path be named the Barland Way after the council official who has made this possible.
8. **Publicity Officer's Report:** Brian said he could no longer produce coloured pictures on the programme due to HQ's financial restrictions. Furthermore as HQ want us to computerize, Brian suggested that Frank should look at making our web site more user friendly for computer illiterate members. In the meantime Brian has secured the publishing of our walk programme, to include print outs, on the Keynsham library site. Once up and running, this may be accessible at other libraries. Brian then appealed for items for the newsletter and said he would publish his web address on the next news letter for this purpose. Lastly Brian said he no longer wished to be publicity officer although he would continue to compile the news letter.
9. **Election of Officers:** Chairman: Diane Adams said she would be willing to stand again. She was therefore nominated by Diana Smith and seconded by David Waterstone. The rest of the committee was elected en bloc as proposed by Patrick

and seconded by June Cozens. Marietta requested two new members to represent our group at area committee meetings. Unfortunately these posts still remain unfilled. However, Marilyn said she would continue attending meetings but she felt unable to attend those held in Bristol. Therefore these posts remain to be filled at a later date, together with the position of publicity officer..

10. Any Other Business: After some discussion, regarding whether the AGM could be held on a different day, with the hope of higher attendance, this was put to the vote. This resulted in a unanimous vote to continue the AGM on Sundays. Patrick gave details of his work regarding starting a family walking group. He has compiled a programme of fortnightly walks, the first was unfortunately not attended, but he said he will carry on, as perhaps by the spring people would be more willing to join. Furthermore his invitation to walk was being increased to another age range in the local school that has been supporting him. The chairman thanked him for his efforts and those of his wife, all members agreed that he was to be congratulated by taking on this task. Joanna proposed putting an advert into our program which would subsequently be seen on the web, plus leaflets in the local Doctors and so on in order to appeal to a wider audience. Brian pointed out that an exhibition was by the buffet tables, this depicts our club and was compiled by a young university student who had walked several times with us. The Chairman explained that we would be taking part in a 'baton' walk on 14/15 May 2010 to celebrate 75 years of the Ramblers and 200 years of the Kennet and Avon Canal. We will pick up the baton at Bradford on Avon from West Wilts RA, we will then take it to the George at Bathampton, before resuming our walk the next day, the baton we will then be passed over at the Boat House Newbridge. Diane then asked if anyone would be willing to cover publicity for this event, unfortunately this post remains unfilled.

After a very interesting talk on sustainable farming by Cate Mack, resulting in many questions from members, the meeting closed for lunch at 1pm followed by a short walk led by Marietta.

BATH GROUP AGM SECRETARY'S REPORT 2009

Once again we have had a very successful year with a full programme of both Sunday and mid week walks. When I look at the wide choice offered on our programme, I can only marvel at the work that Hilary and Marietta carry out, in order to make this happen. Without the work of a few, including our amazing walk leaders none of this would be possible. Moreover thanks to Marietta and Christine we also offer mid week pub meals plus theatre trips.

David and Frank have also been very busy on our behalf, David has successfully negotiated a diverted path on Chelscombe Farm after 35 years of 'negotiations', while Frank has secured our club programme on the B & N E S web page, under the 'Healthy Walking' link, and of course he has also been a prominent member of the Two Tunnels Project on our behalf. However, I am sure that they will explain further.

News: a 'baton' walk has been organised between the Ramblers and the Kennet Avon Canal Trust to celebrate 75 years of the Ramblers and the 200 anniversary of the canal. This is to be held on May 13/14, details will of course be published in our next programme. **Family Group** Patrick started a family group with the help and advice of HQ and the committee, plus brightly coloured leaflets and a local headmasters support! His first walk was held on November 8th and he will continue with fortnightly walks depending on demand.

Holidays: our members have excelled themselves once again this year having organised holidays in Croatia, Lulworth Cove and Exmoor. Unfortunately after all Margaret's hard work Habden Bridge was cancelled due to the credit crunch the hotel was closed and an alternative could not be found.

Members: membership stands at 440 compared to 441 last year, although the records at HQ have been somewhat erratic, we hope that this has now been resolved.

Marilyn Wright Secretary Bath Group