

RAMBLERS CYMRU CARDIFF GROUP: 38th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday 8th November 2021 at 7:30pm at Ararat Centre, Plas Treoda, Cardiff CF14 1PT

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous AGM
3. Matters arising
4. Officers' reports
5. Appointment of Honorary President
6. Election of Officers: (a) Chairman, (b) Secretary, (c) Treasurer, (d) Membership Secretary, (e) Publications Officer, (f) Footpaths Officer, (g) Publicity Officer, (h) Walking Environment Officer, (i) Rambles Officer, (j) Webmaster
7. Election of Committee members
8. Appointment of Independent Examiner
9. Any other business

HOW TO GET THERE:

Ararat Centre is just off Whitchurch Common.

By car: there is street parking in the minor roads behind the Ararat Centre as well as on Merthyr Road.

By bus: Three Elms bus stop on Merthyr Road is almost opposite and is served by Routes 23 (Pantmawr), 24, 25 (Llandaff) and 132 (Maerdy).

Minutes of 37th Annual General Meeting held Monday 11th November 2019

Present: Thirty-six

Apologies: Glenys Rugman, Jen Richards, Wyn Rosser, Larry Bennett, Nigel Clifton, Elaine Shellard, Geoff Trinnick, Janet Trinnick, Chris Snow, Don Snow, Roma Whiteley and Kathryn Bennett.

Diane Davies gave a well-received slideshow about *A Pennine Journey*, a 247 mile national trail based on a walk Alfred Wainwright did in 1938. The walk was organised by Roma Whiteley and done over two years in 2018 and 2019.

1. Leighton Hill agreed to chair the meeting. H thanked Diane for her slideshow and Jane Willock for organising the refreshments and providing home-made cakes. He asked for ideas for celebrating the Group's 40th anniversary

2. Minutes of the previous AGM were accepted and there were no matters arising.

3. Officers' Reports

(a) Diane Davies (Secretary & Walking Environment Officer): She circulated a written Secretary's report. In regard to her role as WEO she mentioned a recent meeting she and Gwyn Lewis had had with the Community Liaison Manager of the Plasdŵr development.

(b) Richard Noble (Treasurer): provided a written report and accounts and answered questions from members.

(c) Kathryn Bennett (Membership): DD read out a written report from her. Membership had started to raise and was now 656. She thanked everyone who helped with the mail-out of the programme and WalkTalk.

(d) Gwyn Lewis (Rambles): He thanked walk leaders and spoke of the need for new walk leaders emphasising that the Group would provide support and that Ramblers Cymru offered training. He particularly thanked Claire Edwards for her new initiative of Friday morning walks from Cefn Onn. He urged people to sign up for the Ramblers app

(e) Gwyn Lewis (Footpaths): He reported that it had been a very quiet year for issues and outlined the variety of orders he had received. He encouraged members to report problems either using the Pathwatch app, directly to the Cardiff Council or via the Group.

(f) Andrew Price (Publications): he reported that he had looked at alternatives printers for publications but had found that there was no reason to change as Daltons were not only competitive but also provided a good service.

(g) Mike Kohnstamm (Webmaster): he gave overview of the social media that the Group utilised which included Facebook, Twitter and Flickr.

4. Honorary President: Linda Hall was elected and spoke of her appreciation of the honour.

5. Election of Officers: the following were proposed and elected.

(a) Chairman: Nigel Clifton **(b) Secretary:** Diane Davies

(c) Treasurer: Richard Noble **(d) Membership Secretary:** Kathryn Bennett

(e) Printed Publications Officer: Andrew Price **(f) Footpaths Officer:** Gwyn Lewis

(g) Publicity officer: Barry Southwell **(h) Walking Environment Officer:** Diane Davies

(i) Rambles Officer: Gwyn Lewis **(j) Webmaster:** Mike Kohnstamm

6. Election of committee members: Leighton Hill, Gillian Masters and Roma Whiteley were proposed and elected.

7. Election of Independent Examiner: Elaine Shellard was elected.

8. AOB: none

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR AGM ON 8TH NOVEMBER 2021

It is no exaggeration to say that it has been a difficult period for the Group since the pandemic restrictions began back in March 2020. That was just after we had issued a complete summer programme, so many thanks to Andrew Price, Publications Officer, for producing it and to Kathryn Bennett for ensuring it was sent out to all members. Just after they received it they were told that led walks were being suspended for the foreseeable future.

In order to offer walks since then we have had to adapt to new and often frequently-changing requirements and restrictions. This has meant that walks have only been offered electronically (via the website, Ramblers Walks-finder and Gwyn's e-mail newsletter) so big thanks must go to Gwyn Lewis, as Rambles Officer, for encouraging leaders to keep offering walks that meet the ever-changing requirements. However, he has announced that he is standing down as Rambles Officer at the AGM, so thanks must also go to him for the work he has done over the years to create and run a comprehensive programme of walks for the Group. He will be sorely missed in that role and there is a real need for someone to step forward and take overall charge of the programme of walks. A number of members have stepped forward to look after specific days and types of walks but there is still an essential need for someone to co-ordinate their work.

Without doubt the biggest thanks must go to those walk leaders who have continued to offer walks whenever the opportunity arose. This has included finding interesting new local walks, when we were prevented from going outside Cardiff, as well as making sure that all walks conformed to the new rules and regulations. However, it is clear that new leaders are also needed if the programme that Gwyn built up is to be maintained – there is plenty of written advice available and experienced walk leaders are more than happy to mentor or offer practical help to anyone coming forward.

Now that the situation is more stable the committee has started looking at how we can get back to a fixed programme rather than a rolling programme issued electronically that has been the main feature of activity for the Group. Providing information purely on-line has made it easier to adapt to changing circumstances but the committee is conscious that we still have a significant proportion of members who are not in electronic contact with us and that many members do not have access to their own transport. It has been decided that the Sherman Theatre in Senghennydd Road will no longer be the meeting point for Sunday walks, instead the meeting point will be the starting point of the walk. No decision has been reached regarding the Ararat Centre as the meeting point for Wednesday walks – it is intended to canvas opinions at the AGM.

In September of last year, we issued our printed newsletter, *WalkTalk*, edited by Gillian Masters, so that we could inform all of the membership of the new ways in which we were operating and how they could join any of the walks that were being organised. We are planning a further edition of *WalkTalk* to go out with the notice of the AGM in November. This is intended to explain to members how we plan to operate as the situation becomes more stable and we can plan ahead.

Regarding public rights of way (PRoW) issues, Gwyn Lewis, Footpath Officer, reports that the trend in Council Orders is away from Gating Orders to those relating to the impact of housing developments on PRoWs. Kathryn Bennett, Membership Secretary, reports that membership has actually grown during these difficult times and stands now at 662.

On constitutional matters, the committee decided to cancel the AGM for 2019/20, given the challenges involved and the fact that there is no statutory obligation for a group to hold one. Nigel Clifton has stood down as Chairman (this had been intended to take place at the 2019/20 AGM) and thanks must be given to him for all the hard work he has done since he was first elected to the post in 2013. The committee decided to appoint Andrew Price as Acting-Chair and he is willing to be elected as Chair at the AGM.

Diane Davies