

Blockley Ramblers

Minutes of the AGM held on Mon 22nd Nov 10 at 8.00

1. **Apologies:** Celia and Bob Jones, Brenda Williams, Brenda Samuels, Peter Mansion, Julie and Anthony Downing, Gillian Gander, Liz and Reg Pritchard, Tom Clifton, Polly Asher, Bernard Stubbs, Françoise Raisin
27 members present.

2. **Minutes of 2009 AGM** - these were accepted as being an accurate record.
Proposed by Christine Girling and seconded by Olivia Amphlett.

3. Matters Arising

Keith reported on the decision of the Parish Council not to pursue the 'Welcomes Walkers' initiative proposed by Blockley Ramblers due to concerns about car parking. Ironically, he added, Longborough had subsequently gained the status with its Parish Council taking the initiative.

4. Chairperson's Report

Blockley Ramblers continues to thrive with some 80+ members. Fewer members were walking as regularly as they were in previous years, however. Injuries and illness were a factor. So too was the competition from Blockley's many other activities.

There were no cancellations in the core Sunday walks programme. Average numbers were slightly down on the last couple of years, but were never less than double figures. As in 2009, a particular feature was the wide spread of walks: Littletons-Cleeve Prior-Marcliff in the north; Bibury to Coln St Aldwyn to the south; Grafton-Sheldon Farm-Ashton-under-Hill to the west ; and Bruern Abbey-Bleddington-Bruern Abbey to the east. There was also a special trip to Windsor Great Park in June, which took in the Savill and Valley Gardens, plus a repeat of the 2002 Jubilee walk, which saw us walking the footpaths throughout the Parish – from Paxford to Aston Magan to Draycote to Blockley, where lunch was had at the Great Western, to Paxford. These last two walks were all-day jobs. Most other Sunday walks took place in the afternoon, but a couple were scheduled for the morning to give some variety.

The regular mid-week walks programme introduced in 2008 was continued – typically a morning walk on the first Tuesday of the month and a full-day one on the third Thursday. Again, there were no cancellations because of bad weather. Several of the walks involved ten or more people and, overall, something approaching half the membership probably took part in at least one of them. There was less enthusiasm for the longer Thursday walks combined with those from the Cotswold Wardens' programme.

As in 2009, if there is one mid-week that deserves to be singled out, it would be January's – which saw us walking the Cotswold Way Circular Walk No 2 from Broadway up to the Broadway Tower and back. It started out so well in sunshine; it was even great walking down from Broadway Tower as the snow fell heavier and heavier. The nightmare started with the drive back to Blockley – one member had to abandon their car on Fish Hill and walk home to Campden and another, having managed to reverse, ended up spending the

night up in Cheltenham on route to Stow.

By the end of the year there will have been one major social event: a very successful Christmas party after the December walk – a ‘figure-of-eight’ walk around Blockley. Many thanks to Liz and Reg for kindly hosting it.

One other very successful event held, in April, was a map and compass skills course organized by the Cotswold Wardens. This was a joint course run in association with the North Cotswold Ramblers and paid for by the proceeds of a Blockley Cinema night earlier in the year.

The one disappointment – for some members at least – was that the Council did not see fit to pursue the *Walkers are Welcome* initiative that Blockley Ramblers offered to do the work for. As several members anticipated at last year’s AGM, parking seemed to have been the main hurdle. In the meantime, it appears that Longborough has proceeded with an application with the backing of their Parish Council.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Jenny (the Secretary) and Michael (the Treasurer) for their encouragement and support in this my third year as Chairman. I would also like to say how much I appreciate Dick Robinson’s work in keeping our dedicated website www.blockleyramblers.org.uk so up to date. Thanks too to everyone who helped to make the cinema night such a great success.

A letter has been received from the Cotswold Conservation Board thanking our organization for the cheque for £125 which we sent after the very successful map reading course run by the Cotswold Wardens.

Keith announced that he does not intend to stand as Chair next year

5. Treasurer’s Report

BLOCKLEY AND DISTRICT RAMBLING CLUB

Financial Statement for the period 22 November 2009 to 21 November 2010

	2010	2009
	£	£
Receipts		
Subscriptions	246.00	231.00
Donations	2.00	1.50
Guests	7.00	6.00
Mapreading Course	3.30	-
Wine Raffle at Cinema	218.82	-
Donations for Book of Walks	-	20.00
Total	477.12	258.50
Payments		
Ramblers Association: Subscription	44.95	40.55
Prior Year Subscription	-	36.00
75th Anniversary Donation	50.00	

Cotswold Wardens: Donation from Wine Raffle	125.00	
AGM	53.33	43.91
Christmas Reception	69.18	52.86
Mapreading Course	54.83	
Route Cards	77.50	
Stationery & Postage		18.06
Website		10.34
Laminator		23.49
Total	474.79	225.21
Surplus on Period	2.33	33.29
Bank Balance brought forward	273.15	239.86
Bank Balance at 21 November 2010 (21.11.09)	275.48	273.15

There was a question from the floor about whether the subscription to the Ramblers Assoc covered us for public liability insurance.

6. Secretary's Report

Nothing to report except an apology to any rambler not on email who did not get notice of the AGM.

7. Election of Officers

All officers were re-elected unopposed. Proposed by Viola Stubbs and seconded by Elizabeth Haycock.

8. Walks Programme 2011

Only 3 walks forms were submitted at the meeting and so we have an urgent need for 9 more!

Questions were asked referring to our code of practice for walks and it was agreed to send it out again.

Request to make sure that we all walk the footpaths around Blockley in order to keep them open. It was emphasised that it would be appreciated if walkers could carry secateurs so that offending bushes and brambles etc could be cut back regularly.

9. Any Other Business

- Cotswold Lion supplied
- Archive Walks and the 4 walk descriptions with maps produced this year are still available and please contact Keith if new members haven't received them.
- Special Walk suggestion from Keith is to use the Malvern Festival walks taking place during the week of May 28th – June 5th 11. More information will be available later.
- Keith emphasised the dramatic effect of the decimation of the Rights of Way Team

who are responsible for enforcing rights of way. The budget of the Conservation Board who supply the Wardens with equipment and materials for mending stiles etc has been cut. Great need for everyone to report problems on footpaths quickly.

- All members welcome at Liz and Reg Pritchard's house after the Dec Sunday walk.
- Viola asked for walk leaders for the Moreton Save the Children Fund walks taking place next Oct from the Fire College. They are 12, 8 and 2½ miles long. Bernard will tell us more when info becomes available.
- Michael Amphlett proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee. Jenny proposed an even greater vote of thanks to Keith without whom most walks would not take place.

10. Date of Next Year's AGM

Mon 28th November in Little Village Hall at 8.00