

**MINUTES OF THE GEDLING & DUKERIES GROUP RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION  
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2014 AT 7.30PM IN THE  
COMMITTEE ROOM RICHARD HERROD CENTRE**

**PRESENT:** Mick Rawdin            Liz Pritchett            Jonathan Ankers  
                 Brian Torr                 Jim Norris                 Ann Staples  
                 Alex McGowan            George Wood                 Graham Dicker  
                 Brian O'Neill             Val Disney

**1. APOLOGIES**

Peter Dawson, Pat Rogers.

**2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record.

Proposed G Wood , seconded G Dicker and passed.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Two e-mails to J Prust regarding the award of £200 to Broxtowe Group were still unanswered. The payment was clear on the Area accounts. MR would try once more, then raise at the Area AGM.

**Val raised the transfer of our walks to the RA walks finder. GD had been monitoring and advised that there were teething problems. GD would assess** how much work would be involved to complete the process.

A cheque for £75 had been sent to Oxton Village Hall for the AGM. The raffle would have to do well to cover this cost, so donations of prizes would be welcome.

**MR had advised Pam Footitt of the coach dates.**

**4. MEMBER'S REPORTS**

Chairman's Report

I have sent the group's annual report to Keith Wallace for inclusion in the winter edition of The Nottinghamshire Walker. I am hoping that the magazine is ready for distribution in time for the Christmas Fuddle walk on 14th. December 2014. The group is still responsible for the postage costs ,the envelopes and address slips are provided by Area . So, as it is important to save costs, can we as a group hand out at the fuddle walk or hand deliver as many copies as possible. Can I also ask to spread the word for donation of raffle prizes on the day to help cover the cost of the hire of

the hall .If anyone is willing to help John & Dorothy set up the hall, please let them know.

AGM agenda / reports /minutes of previous meeting are ready for the meeting . I have 70 copies available on the day at a cost to the group of £35.70. Again help required to set up the room prior to the AGM.

Committee meeting minutes are now available on line.

I received an e-mail from the NG Magazine on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2014 asking if the group wanted to advertise in the forthcoming edition . I said no, but would consider placing a future advert in the Spring of 2015 if the uptake from the first advert justified the cost. If so, the advert would be placed in either the NG4 or NG5 edition .

Crematorium on Spring Lane decision was quashed by the High Court on 11th. March 2014 . An appeal to the Court of Appeal is due to be heard in early December 2014.

The Digester Plant on the colliery site was given the go-ahead by Nottinghamshire County Council Planning . Local residents not pleased - letters of objection still being taken by the authority .

Area AGM to be held on Sunday 1st. February 2015 at YHA , Sherwood Forest , Edwinstowe. There will be a 6 / 7 mile walk starting at 09:30am with the AGM starting at 14.00.

### Secretary's Report

From RA central:

1. Today we're celebrating the government's announcement that the entire English Coast Path will soon be open for walkers. - See more at: <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/news/#sthash.d60JYBwo.dpuf>
2. Successful conclusion to a 14 year campaign to save a path along the River Trent near Willington in Derbyshire, now declared a public right of way - See more at: <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/news/#sthash.d60JYBwo.dpuf>
3. To celebrate our 60 year campaign to win the right to roam - we've pulled together some of the most stunning places in England and Wales where you can wander freely, away from the well-trodden paths. - See more at: <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/what-we-do/news/2014/september/the-best-places-to-roam-free.aspx#sthash.XM1FIMJD.dpuf>
4. On Friday Ramblers Chief Executive Benedict Southworth joined local Ramblers members for a short walk in the Peak District with Sheffield MP and Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg. - See more at: <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/news/#sthash.qd9yswSJ.dpuf>
5. If you go down to the woods today, you're sure of a big surprise, because disappointingly, only a third of woodland in England is currently available for people to fully explore. In 2013 the government pledged to increase access to woodland, but so far very little progress has been

made. We're now calling for all political parties to commit to producing a forestry bill early in the next parliament. - See more at:  
<http://www.ramblers.org.uk/what-we-do/news/2014/october/can-you-go-down-to-the-woods.aspx#sthash.ONU5bxff.dpuf>

6. Following the completion of legal proceedings concerning the death of a walker Roger Freeman in a bull attack in 2010, Alan Wilson, Rushcliffe Group, has been in contact with Paddy Tipping in his Notts PCC role. As a result of this Notts Ramblers have been invited to participate in a Rural Crime Meeting (date as yet unknown) and a Rural Crime event linked with the Midlands Machinery Show, a new agricultural show being held on the Newark Showground 12-13 November 2014. Alan has no idea yet about the format of the November rural crime event as he is awaiting further information from Yvette. She did make one specific offer: to produce laminated cards with the Ramblers advice about walking through fields with livestock printed on them. These could be distributed at the show. I have already emailed her with the relevant text. BTW, Yvette deals with Gating Orders as part of her brief, so she knows Chris Thompson. If any members are prepared to attend the Midlands Machinery Show on 12th 13th November 2014, even if it is only for a few hours, to give out the laminated cards to people attending the show can they please let Jenny Fillingham know.

7. Jenny & Rod Fillingham have been elected trustees of "Friends of Gedling Country Park."

8. Save Shelford Valley campaign to prevent Notts County Council (NCC) allocating Shelford West for sand and gravel extraction as in the attached Brett Aggregates proposal which is now "under consultation" until 10 Dec. Their proposal will cut across the long established and well used right of way along the "Trent Valley Way". This will prevent walkers from the Radcliffe on Trent hills continuing along the bank of the River Trent to Shelford via Stoke Ferry Lane as this public road will disappear as part of the extraction site. There will also be "temporary" re-routing of other footpaths which will remain in place for at least 14 years! Pictures of this view can be found at [www.saveshelfordvalley.org](http://www.saveshelfordvalley.org) and there are several other significant issues such as the loss of 600 acres of farmland, loss of employment, increased noise and also 120 daily HGV movements at a spot known for congestion on the A6097.

9. Closure notice for Lambley FP 1 & 18 starting next Monday 27 Oct for installation of new bridges over the Lambley Dumble.

10. There is a website, [www.gorselanequarry.co.uk](http://www.gorselanequarry.co.uk) and have just employed a planning Consultancy (Hunt Consulting) to fight this damaging and unsustainable quarry proposal affecting the Viking Way near the Nottinghamshire border. We would highly value any support that the Ramblers' Association could provide to help us prevent this proposal becoming reality. We are of the opinion that Planning Permission would be sought from Lincolnshire CC between November 2014 and January 2015. We can be contacted by e-mail at this address: [simoncurtin@hotmail.com](mailto:simoncurtin@hotmail.com).

11. The First Aid Course was discussed at the Area Council Meeting and it was agreed that: the individual would pay £5.00; the group would pay £10;

Area would pay £15.00. Jack Prust, Area Treasurer, will pay the full amount and then collect the contributions from the individuals and groups. Groups to nominate one person. If there was enough interest another First Aid Course may be organised.

12. [The Gedling Country Park future is threatened by the installation of an Anaerobic Digester. The 'Friends' are doing several things to bring attention to this threat and we now have a campaign website. Please go to: <http://www.gedlingsaysno.yolasite.com/> This will give you our reasons for objection, a few points about the plans and how to object including an objection letter template.](#)

### Treasurer's Report

Annual figures had been submitted showing a balance of £737.68. £590 would be required for next year, of which £391 will come from Area. BT has asked for an increase as the grant has been reduced by two thirds in recent years. The current balance was £667.24.

### Walks Programme Editor

The September to February programme had been printed. All walks had been submitted on time and 90% of the available walk slots had been filled.

### Footpaths Secretary's Report

Notts C.C. Information was not forthcoming. Chris Thompson receives all information from Head Office. Paths were generally very overgrown. There was also a report that paths around Southwell Racecourse had been diverted.

### Membership Secretary's Report

As at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

Total	265
Annual Individual	137
Annual Joint	121
Life Individual	5
Life Joint	2
Payments Pending	7
Members no longer in the group	1
New Members	1
Reinstated	0

Details of the "Contact us" area of the RA website were circulated in addition to the Members Area.

### Social Sub Committee Report

Ramsdale had been booked for the Annual Dinner. The ticket price would be £13.95.

### Coach Secretary's Report

Two trips had been booked, using Littles at £460 each. Polly and George Church Stretton 17<sup>th</sup> May, Bourton on the Water 19<sup>th</sup> July which is a linear walk to Stow on the Wold. If tickets cost £10, a full bus would make a £70 profit. **It was agreed** to charge £12. The success of any trip was primarily dependent upon the driver.

### Publicity Officer's Report

None

### Area Liaison Officer's Report

Groups are to be asked to nominate a person to attend a First Aid Course. This would be funded by a charge of £5 for the member, £10 for the Group and £15 for the Area. It was pointed out that the Trained Person could not be on every walk. It was proposed that this be an on-going process and that perhaps Groups could ask members if they already hold a first aid certificate.

The Area Membership Officer and Chairman visited Central Office on 1st September to present their ideas about surveying the 70% of members we never see. The proposal received a favourable response but to date there had been no formal response that it had been accepted. To date 4 Groups in Notts have indicated a willingness to participate. In addition she has circulated a document on the future of recruitment and retention. It is now the case that every member can log into their own membership account on the Ramblers website and change their details, address, Group etc.

Responsibility for "lost way claims" is being delegated away from claims need approval by the Area Council to the District Coordinators and through them the Group Footpath Secretaries.

The "walking with MPs" scheme has been postponed until after the 2015 General Election because it might be deemed to be lobbying.

The Area Council has lodged a formal objection to Nottinghamshire County Council regarding the proposal to build an anaerobic digester on the Gedling Country Park Site. The objection is based on the impact on wildlife in the Park, particularly in the area of the lagoons/ponds.

The "Aligned Core Strategy" has been approved by Gedling Council. This has a long term significant impact, because it introduces a concept of an assumption of accepting sustainable planning applications. It also makes it easier to build on flood plains. This is in addition to the inclusion of the building of hundreds of houses at Teal Close.

Re-accreditation for "Walking for Health" is coming in December and further guidance is forthcoming. The contacts are Keith Wallace and Judith Anson.

The new structure for handling Rights of Way issues has been endorsed. Of key importance to Groups is that "District Coordinators will hold meetings with Footpath Secretaries of Groups within their Districts. The content and frequency of these meetings to be agreed between Groups and the DC.

The Area Treasurer has given his assurances that the once yearly issue of the Nottinghamshire Walker will be fully funded this year.

Map Secretary's Report

None issued.

Web Officer

A menu had been added to each page to enable faster navigation around the site.

LP suggested looking at Belvoir Ramblers "Blog spot" and Facebook. This would all require a volunteer to action.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nomination forms for the AGM were circulated.

The meeting closed at 2100.

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014.