

MINUTES OF THE GEDLING & DUKERIES GROUP RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 7TH MAY 2015 AT 7.30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM RICHARD HERROD CENTRE

PRESENT:	Mick Rawdin	Val Disney	Jonathan Ankers
	Brian Torr	Pat Rogers	Ann Staples
	Alex McGowan	Peter Dawson	Graham Dicker
	Brian O'Neill	Jim Norris	George Wood

1. APOLOGIES

Liz Pritchett

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

Proposed Brian Torr, seconded Ann Staples and passed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There were now nine spare seats on the Church Stretton coach.

49 people had attended the annual dinner.

4. MEMBER'S REPORTS

Chairman's Report

Alex Staniforth had written a nice article in the Notts Walker about the Gedling Country Park opening.

There is only one place to start and that is the sad loss to the group of John and June Lord . We all know the circumstances of June's sudden death but the real shock to me was John taking his own life a short time later. The two of them had contributed so much to the group over the years; John as Area and Group Footpath Officer for many years. John also lead many walks and although laterly only walking a few miles on Thursdays , still enjoyed the company of friends as well as still supporting the aims of the Ramblers . June served on the committee as Social Secretary and like John started to lead walks when John could no longer do so. John was cricket buddy at Trent Bridge and it was a strange feeling not to see him there at this year's first match. June was a great cook and over the years I have enjoyed several meals at their home. They touched the hearts of most people they got to know with their kindness and I am sure many members of the group are still coming to terms with their passing. I for one will miss them.

A thank you to everyone who either helped or visited the members of the group at the official opening of the Gedling Country Park. On the day we handed out some 40 group programmes, 100 copies of the Nottinghamshire Guided Walks Programme , fliers and Ramblers information guides .

There is photo of some of us looking rather chilly in the latest edition on the Nottinghamshire Walker (on line only). Alex Staniforth praises the group for making the day a success. I understand that there will be another paper print of the edition in the autumn.

I have received a thank you from Julian Hanby, who organised the opening day, for the group's support.

I have a copy of the report from General Council: The motion for one member one vote to elect The Board Of Trustees was defeated.

I have a copy of the Ramblers renewable energy policy, which can be obtained on line or I or Jonathon could send you a copy .

I also have a copy of the Area's bank balance m/e 31/12/2014 if anyone is interested.

Finally, a big thank you to Pat & Ann for again making the annual dinner such a success.

Secretary's Report

1. Funding for the Hook Bridge has fallen through. Planning continues with the hope of alternative funding in the future.
2. PDGLA AGM is on Thursday 25 June at 7.30 pm at the Medway Centre, Bakewell.
3. The very last day of the Parliamentary session before the General Election saw the Deregulation Bill receiving Royal Assent. This last formality means that the Bill is now an Act, and that the package of measures intended to improve the processes surrounding the recording of paths on official definitive maps is now law. There is already a backlog of 4000 pre-1949 paths that must be added to the "definitive" maps before 2026 if they are not to be lost. The new provisions should make it easier for local authorities to deal with the backlog. See more at: <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/news/news.aspx#sthash.k2Zq9qsr.dpuf>
4. To help and support our volunteers, a new programme of Volunteer Development Days has been planned for 2015. - See more at: <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/news/news.aspx#sthash.k2Zq9qsr.dpuf>
5. Walkers are one step closer to being able to enjoy greater access to the coast of England as Natural England publish their timetable to create a new National Trail - the England Coast Path - by 2020. - See more at: <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/news/news.aspx#sthash.k2Zq9qsr.dpuf>

Treasurer's Report

The current balance is £878.04. Room hire has risen to £12. The Utility Bank was changing to Nat West and the new cheque books would be in use from July. This means we would have a local bank branch rather than posting everything. Any change in sort code or account number would be advised.

A £400 cheque to Little's had been honoured by the bank despite having only one signature.

A further £40 had been received from Ramblers Holidays.

Walks Programme Editor

Spare copies of the programme were low in advance of the Arnold Carnival at the beginning of June. **It was agreed**, however, not to print further copies.

Julie Finch was due to lead a walk in June but lives in Spain. Brian Torr volunteered to stand in.

Footpaths Secretary's Report

I attended a meeting on 18th April regarding the grassed footpath section of Ethel Avenue between Emanuel Avenue and Kenrick Road. This has been blocked unofficially since July 2013 because of a planning application. A quarter of the path belongs to Gedling BC, with the rest belonging to the two houses either side of the section. The path has been in existence for 130 years but has never been officially recorded. The outcome of the meeting, following a petition from the "Friends of Ethel Avenue" was for Gedling to sell their interest to Notts County Council to allow the path to be recorded with public access preserved.

The Foxwood Lane wind turbine had been erected following planning permission being granted by Gedling BC in error, but was unlikely to be removed. There was a discussion about the Ramblers' policy on wind turbines as we had been invited to make our observation on the revised planning application. Our reply had been that removal was not cost effective. Further turbines would be opposed by the Ramblers if they adversely affected footpaths.

Membership Secretary's Report

30th April 2015

Total	249
Annual Individual	135
Annual Joint	107
Life Individual	5
Life Joint	2
Payments Pending	12
Members no longer in the group	0
New Members	2
Members Reinstated	0

Response to New Starter Questionnaire

New member from March found out about Gedling Group by telephone enquiry to Central Office regarding joining the Ramblers.

Membership Price Increases - 1st May 2015

Membership prices have increased as of 1st May 2015: Monthly Direct Debts by 25p per month, individuals and joint membership £1.00 per year and individual and joint concessions 50p per year.

Graham to update the information on the website.

New membership application forms are available, old forms to be destroyed.

Social Sub Committee Report

There were only good reports from the annual dinner. The vegetables on the tables and named places were successful. Raffle prizes were already being collected for next time.

Coach Secretary's Report

Unfounded rumours were circulating that Church Stretton was a hard walk. Malcolm & Margaret had suggested a specific walk for 2016.

Publicity

'Get Walking Week'. 2nd May to 10th May. Launch on Saturday 2nd May at the Treversal Visitor's Centre. 40 Flyers printed for 'Get Walking Week' event, showing a selection of walks taken from Gedling & Dukeries Group programme for the month of May.

Jenny reported that the event was poorly attended. In an attempt to get people to visit the centre and look at the stands, Jenny and Rod walked along the Treversal Trail and spoke to people. They saw 12 people in total.

On Sunday 3rd Jenny went along to Gedling Country Park and distributed the 'Get Walking Week' programme (including the Gedling Group flyers), to people out walking in the Park.

Thursday 7th May – 39 people on the walk. However, no-one as a result of 'Get Walking Week'.

62 Flyers have been printed for Arnold Carnival on 20th & 21st June.

Area Liaison Officer's Report

Postponed until the next meeting.

There had been complaints about the lack of facilities at the Gedling Country Park.

Web Officer

Nothing to report.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Availability of the Lambley Cemetery car park will be checked by the leaders on the day of the two walks starting there.
2. Ann Staples announced that she was finding negotiating stiles very difficult. She would not be attending as many walks as usual and would therefore have a problem collecting coach money.
3. A recent County Council walk had been very poorly attended.
4. The idea of a memorial for June and John Lord was raised by Brian Torr. **It was agreed** that a donation be made at the service.

The meeting closed at 2045.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 9th July 2015.