



SOUTH SOMERSET GROUP

of THE RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION

54th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING -Held on 4 November 2023
at 2pm at Tintinhull Village Hall

1. **Present:** David Fawthrop, Linda Fawthrop, Ruth Goodland, Jim Turner, Bill Pratt, Katherine Pratt, Richard Yates, Wendy Yates, Bill Tregillus, Judi Tregillus, Derek Lucas, Peter Milligan, Peter Bradford, Martin Pakes, Jean Pakes, Maureen Day, John Day, Phil Bradshaw, Marion Pattison
2. **Apologies Received:** Dilly Brownlow, Rose Arampatta
3. **Matters Arising from AGM held on 5 November 2022** – There were no matters arising and the minutes were approved.
4. **Chairman's Report** – Jim welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them and the committee members for their support. He welcomed Bill Pratt as the new treasurer.

Jim talked about safety on group walks. He summarised the key points. The walk leaders do not know the ability of new walkers so communication is important and the walk leaders have an elevated duty of care. There is no requirement at present for walk leaders to have training, but it is encouraged and there are e learning courses available. The Walks' Manager system is working well and details of walks can be altered online.

The number of Sunday walkers has remained steady at 10-12, sometimes more. Thursday walks are usually in the mid 20's. The link with the Norwich Ramblers has continued.

5. **Secretary's Report** – Katherine stated that new leaflets have been received from the Ramblers' Association. These contain up to date information, new membership fees etc. and will be bought along to walks if anyone would like a copy.

Katherine said that the new Facebook group seems to be going well. People are regularly posting photos of the walks and it currently has 86 followers. We have had some new people come on walks as a result of seeing details of the site.

6. **Treasurer's Report** -There is currently £1479.69 in the account. Bill reported that the main source of income has come from the Ramblers' Association. There is a net gain on last year of £183.94. Bill explained that is a list of items that the money can be spent on. This includes training and visiting speakers. It was suggested that some of the money be spent on first aid training. Katherine will get details of local courses with costings.

7. **Programme Secretary's Report** - John reported that the Thursday walks programme has been covered. There is one walk every Thursday and sometimes two. Peter stated that we are getting more visiting members on the Sunday walks, which is working well. It was also noted that we really need new walks leaders. The current walks programme is just covered but we only have 7 regular leaders. Training and support can be given if anyone is interested. It was felt that members should be encouraged to think that leading is part of the culture of the group.

We also discussed weekend walks as Katherine stated that she had had feedback stating that some members would like a shorter walk. This could be difficult as we are short of walk leaders but Phil has offered to lead a shorter walk at a weekend.

8. **Footpath Secretary** – Peter Milligan has stood down as footpath secretary and Jim thanked him for all of his hard work. Phil is now covering East, Jean is doing North and Bill P is doing West. South is currently vacant.
9. **Social Secretary** - Wendy reported that members are sending in bookings for the Christmas lunch. The summer supper will be held on 8 August.
10. **Membership Secretary** – Bill T reported that there are currently 225 members, which remains steady. The age profile shows that the average age is 71 and 30% of the members are aged 70-79. Marion asked if there was a statistic for the number of people who are members but never walk. This information is not available. The gender statistics show that the membership is divided into 44% female and 35% male.

It was agreed that everyone continues to welcome new members and encourage them to come walking.

11. **Election of Committee**

Jim stated that he was willing to stand for another year as Chairman. This was agreed by Phil and seconded by Katherine. The rest of the committee are prepared to stand again so were all voted back in. Jim asked if there was anyone who would like to volunteer to stand on the committee but there were no new members. The

current committee is as follows: Jim Turner, Bill Pratt, Katherine Pratt, Wendy Yates, Rose Arampatta, Phil Bradshaw, John Day, Maureen Day and Bill Tregillus.

Jim Turner and Katherine Pratt will be the two delegates for the group to the governing body of Somerset Area.

12. **Appointments of an Independent Accounts Verifier** - Peter Bradford is willing to continue for another year.
13. **Any Other Business** - Starting points were discussed. Phil asked what distance people were prepared to travel for walks. An hour each way was thought to be a rough guide, but this would depend on the length of the walk. Wendy suggested that a walk could start from Tintinhull as the hall does lunches.
14. **Date of Next Meeting** – 2 November 2024, 2pm at Tintinhull Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 2.55pm