



## Isle of Wight Group 1

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Registered office: 2nd floor, Camelford House, 87-90 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TW.

### Minutes

of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 28th January 2017 at the Arreton Community Hall, at 10.10am

A moment of silence at the start was held for those who had passed away during the past year. They included: Mr Len Wilby (Sandown) who had been a newsletter distributor, organised coach outings and a walk Leader for Lake health walks; Mr Geoff Laker (Ryde and formerly East Cowes) who had been Membership Secretary and put all members on computer (previously index card system); Mrs Hazel Knowles (Sandown) who had paid for three kissing gates; Mrs J. Fountaine (St. Helens); Mr Ellerd-Elliott (Bembridge); Mr Keith Skelsey (Cowes), who was the brother of David Skelsey, a past Group Chairman; Mr G Harlow (Ventnor); Mr Stuart Ash (Cowes); Mr Clifford Dilloway (Lake), who advised Group re setting up our own Ramblers website; Miss Beryl Millband (Sandown), who was our oldest Ramblers member (number 1568) and had been a member for over 40 years.

### 1. Apologies for absence

Various apologies were received and relayed to those attending. Those people were Toni Goodley, Sonja Iversen, John Rolfe and Carol Crawford.

### 2. The Minutes of the last AGM, held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2016 were approved.

Proposed        David Howarth  
Seconded       Carol Hamilton

### 3. Matters arising from the previous minutes

There were no matters arising.

### 4. Group Committee Annual Report

#### *Group walks*

Steve Gibson, the Walks Programme Coordinator, said that the walking programme for the year, as taken from the Ramblers website, contained 256 walks, which was over 25 per cent up on the previous year. This was a very good result which everyone should be proud of. This consisted of approximately:

40 Sunday strolls which continued to prove very popular, and had been extended to run throughout the year.  
50 Saturday long walks. The system of allocating walk leaders had changed: the majority of walks now did not have a leader allocated when the programme was originally done, but were allocated by volunteers around a month before. Other people could possibly consider doing this.

Over 40 Thursday walks.

Summer evening walks.

Over 100 other walks, ranging from 3 miles to 20.

Steve also stressed the importance of fresh walk leaders and said that he would like people to do more in that respect, if they could.

### *Socials*

The following were arranged by Carol Henley, who presented this section:

March 16th 2016 Arreton Hall started with a short walk, then back to hall for a talk from Nick Pointing including about driving, his beloved Chitty car to Australia. There was a raffle and a high tea. 29 Ramblers attended and a surplus of £10.20 was made.

June 9th at the Wooton Community hall started with a short walk then back to hall for a Pilates lesson with qualified instructor Vicky Warner. This was followed by a ploughmans lunch. Only seven people attended, resulting in a short fall of £53.26.

August 20th at the Shanklin Rowing club was our Annual BBQ. It started with a short walk quiz, around Shanklin, then back to the clubhouse for further table quizzes, and an excellent BBQ cooked to perfection by Bill and Reg. Salads and desserts were all prepared and cooked by team committee members, Carol, Ann and Sonja. A total of 50 ramblers attended and a surplus of £72.02 was made.

Christmas lunch was held on 3rd Dec at the Shanklin Conservative club. An excellent three-course meal was followed by entertainment by guitarist Spike Oatley. 56 people attended, £100 was collected for the Christmas themed raffle, and a £50 tip was given to the waiting staff. This resulted in a £22 surplus.

### *Shows*

We had a presence at the following shows during the summer, arranged by Pam Dana, who also presented this section: the Chale Show (6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> August), the Garlic Festival (20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August) and Wolverton Manor Garden Fair (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> September). The stands were manned by volunteers, who numbered 36 in total. Pam also appealed for help at this year's shows.

### *Group Holiday and Excursions*

Jackie Hough gave a summary of these, arranged by her and her husband Tim:

#### Spring Break 25th – 29th April 2016

This was based at Weston-Super-Mare and was enjoyed by 45 members. It included an excursion to Cheddar Gorge and walk; a coach excursion to Bristol where we saw the Clifton Suspension Bridge and the SS Great Britain, the world's first iron-hulled ocean going steamship and another of Brunel's engineering masterpieces and a replica of the sailing ship the Matthew used by John Cabot when he discovered Newfoundland.

Day Outing (Howards Way) - Thursday 16th June. This year we used water transport, starting with the Floating Bridge to Cowes. We hired a 70-seater boat to Warsash where we began our six-mile walk up the River Hamble to Bursledon. We saw Bursledon Brickworks Museum, the last surviving example of a steam-driven brickworks in the country. On the way back the ferry to Warsash had given up for the day and so a water taxi did a good trade in getting us back to the boat twelve at a time.

Welsh Valleys walking holiday – 25th Sept – 1st Oct 2016. We were based just outside Chepstow. There were 42 Ramblers. Our 4\* Hotel overlooking a lake was a stunning 14th century manor house set in picturesque parkland. Trips included Avebury Rings on our way up, and Glastonbury on our journey back. The walking was harder than expected for the Wye Valley but the option of even shorter walks of three or four miles was taken up by quite a few. The Lower Wye Ramblers led a circular long walk from Monmouth; there was a shorter walk and a medium walk.. The highlight was the magnificent viewpoint from the Kymin, a Naval temple built in 1800 which rises 800ft above Monmouth. WyeDean Walking Tours gave us two interesting walks led by John Bosley & Geoff Davis, both ending at Symmons Yat Rock (the famous viewpoint in the area). There was also an excursion to Brecon with a cruise down the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal on a narrowboat, an easy flat walk from the hotel on our free day to Mathern and Wyelands with views across to both Severn bridges and a hard walk on our last day from Chepstow Castle to Tintern Abbey again led by Lower Wye Ramblers.

Grand Tour of India – 2nd – 22nd November. 12 Members of the IW Ramblers participated in this adventurous tour over a three-week period visiting Delhi, the pink city of Jaipur, Agra (Taj Mahal), Ranthambore National Park, the annual Camel Fair at Pushkar, Hassan and the fabled city of Mysore. A guided walk into the coffee and spice plantations in Coorg's hills and a visit to the Tibetan settlement of Bylakuppe were rounded off with a visit to the Dubare Elephant Camp. Flying on to Cochin we toured the Kerala region of Southern India. We ended our tour with a walk to the Lighthouse at Kovalam before flying back to Mumbai.

2017. Plans include a spring break in Llandudno in April and our main walking holiday in September to Shropshire with a visit to the Ironbridge Gorge Museums. Our day outing in June will be by coach to Whitchurch for a five-mile walk along the River Test. A two week walking holiday staying in Paphos, Cyprus is also planned for November.

### **5. Treasurer's Annual Report**

Jackie Hough reported on her second year as your Group Treasurer. She said that the accounts had remained fairly steady over the past year. Extra postage was needed for the Spring issue of the Newsletter which cost approximately £40 more due to the weight. Also a modest but essential new printer was bought for £40. The summer shows did well with their sales this year and a good profit was made. She offered thanks to Pam Dana for all her hard work with the organisation of these shows and the ordering of the books and maps. Some of the social events had been disappointing, despite the hard work and enthusiasm of our Social Secretary, Carol Henley, although thankfully the success of the barbecue made up the dent in our reserves together with a small profit on the Christmas lunch.

The Annual Return had been sent to Central Office and all Group Accounts and Annual Return were agreed and signed by the Group Auditor, Mr Graham White. His position was voted for another year:

Proposed	Rod Senior
Secoded	David Howarth

### **6. Election of Committee Members**

The following positions were proposed, with the following candidates standing for re-election:

Chair	Vacant
Secretary	Steve Gibson
Treasurer	Jackie Hough
Newsletter Distribution	Tim Hough
Walks programme	Steve Gibson
Social Secretary	Carol Henley
Committee Members	Pam Dana
	Ann Pearson
	Anna Willshire
	John Rolfe

They were re-elected by majority of attendees.

Proposed	Mike Marchant
Secoded	Carol Hamilton

### **7. Any other business**

Tim Hough asked for volunteers to help with newsletter distribution.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.40am.

Signed .....

Date .....