

# Oct 2015 to Sept 2016 IOW Ramblers Annual Report

Our Annual Report is presented in line with our 'Path Forward' framework. Each element is written by the volunteer who leads on that subject.

	<b>IOW Ramblers Mission Activities</b>	
	<b>Footpaths and Access</b>	<b>Lead Volunteer</b>
F1	<p><b>Footpath Representatives</b></p> <p>There are 28 Footpath Representatives looking after the footpaths on the 23 Parishes on the Isle of Wight (there are sometimes two FRs looking after one parish). They have submitted 142 Footpath Reports during the year ending October 2016.</p> <p>David Yates has taken up the role of Footpath Rep coordinator. A questionnaire was sent out to all reps to get feedback on how the scheme was operating. Discussions were held about the role of footpath representatives and an updated role description was agreed.</p> <p>The possibility of Ramblers volunteers carrying out the national standard BVPI footpath survey system on the Island is also under review.</p> <p>Pilots are underway in Niton, Shorewell and Rookley parishes to explore partnership working with Parish Councils on footpath issues and surveys.</p>	David Yates
F2	<p><b>Rights of Way Liaison and significant issues addressed.</b></p> <p>There were four meetings with the RoW during the year where all problems associated with the footpath network were discussed.</p> <p>Mike Slater is the IOW Ramblers representative on the Local Access Forum.</p> <p><b>Music Festival Footpath Issues</b></p> <p>There has been correspondence and discussion with those involved in the Newport Music Festival (SOLO) in June 2016 to sort out the misuse of the newly improved footpath and cycleway along the eastern side of the Medina River (N120). The result is SOLO agreeing to make good at their expense any damage to the footpath occurring during the period of the Festival.</p> <p>The duration of footpath closure has also been significantly reduced.</p>	Mike Marchant

	<p><b>Rights of Way Improvement Plan</b></p> <p>The IOW Council are updating the Islands ROW Improvement Plan. Between July and September this year a consultation exercise was run to seek input from all parts of the community. An IOW Ramblers working group carried out a review and made a written submission to the consultation. This identified ten key policy issues for possible inclusion in the Islands new 10 year plan and updated a list of specific path network improvements that should be considered under future plans.</p>	Mike Slater
	<p><b>The Big Pathwatch</b></p> <p>The Ramblers National Big Pathwatch project was completed in Jan 2016. Here on the Isle of Wight around 50 volunteers adopted one or more 1 km squares to survey. Between them they reported on the condition of 72% of our 750 km of public rights of way. A total of 359 path problems were reported. The two most significant issues identified were lack of way marking along the route and unsafe stiles. On average a significant obstruction was reported for every 8.3 km of path and an inconvenient feature was recorded for every 2.2 km of path. We have, however, estimated that the overall level of Island path problems is 25% better than the average Big Pathwatch national statistics. The IOW Ramblers are discussing with the ROW department how we can work together to improve signage along paths during 2017.</p>	Mike Slater
F3	<p><b>Footpath Work Party Activity</b></p> <p>A number of footpaths have been way marked to assist direction finding where there were less obvious directions 'on the ground'. The repair of Footpath NT36 during November 2015 was completed with the assistance of the Ramblers Work Party and the path is now open. The availability of work party organiser volunteers limits the amount of work undertaken.</p>	Mike Marchant
F4	<p><b>Donate a Gate Scheme</b></p> <p>The early part of the year was very hectic and for some time, we have been trying to catch up with gate installations following the difficulties poor weather caused in the Winter and early Spring. We are now catching up. The two highlights of the year have been the installation of four gates on Chillerton Down, two donated by the Parish Council and two by private donors; and the installation of</p>	Derek Baty

	<p>three gates in Branstone, all donated by one private donor. In both instances, the Ramblers aim of opening up access to our wonderful countryside has been achieved. Between Oct 2015 and Sept 2016 30 new gate donations have been received. At the start of 2017 total new gate donations received stands at 162.</p>	
F5	<p><b>Footpath Improvement/Extension Projects</b>  <b><u>EWLP - Meanders and Reflections Down to the Coast (DttC)</u></b></p> <p>The East Wight Landscape project is making good progress and the IOW Ramblers have contributed £2,750 this year plus significant amounts of volunteer time towards its footpath and access elements.</p> <p>We have helped to fund the replacement of a footbridge and boardwalks on paths in Pelham Woods Nr. Ventnor.</p> <p>A Yar River survey has been completed and a volunteer is collating the information into tables. These will delineate potential improvements and repairs to the signage and indicate which are the Rights of Way Section responsibility.</p> <p>Brading Seawall path. DttC work parties on five days tackled the extensive work on the first section from Brading Quay Lane to the first sluice. Despite extreme temperature conditions the path was extensively cleared back ready for surfacing in 2017.</p> <p>A contractor has been commissioned to carry out the clearance of the Centurions Copse section commencing in December.</p> <p>Bembridge Seawall section. Surfacing has now been completed – access proved awkward but was overcome by the cooperation of landowners. The path now looks excellent with some supporting edge revetment carried out.</p> <p>The Donate a Gates across the airport have been installed.</p> <p>Two stiles remain in situ due to landowner reluctance to have gates. Further discussions to be continued.</p> <p>Gaggen path at St Helens upgraded- steps removed and resurfaced. A new wooden bridge installed across the creek. This allows less mobile people to gain access to The Duver.</p>	John Hague

<p><b>Coastal Path Project Pre Survey</b></p> <p>In 2009 the Marine and Coastal Access Act provided a legal framework for a complete footpath to be established around the English Coastline. The government agency Natural England are progressively implementing this work around the country and plan to complete it by 2020. The Ramblers campaigned over several years to ensure that the Isle of Wight was included under these Coastal Access provisions. Natural England are now scheduled to start work on developing a complete Isle of Wight Coastal Path in the spring of 2017.</p> <p>IOW Ramblers are leading a partnership of Island footpath recreational users to carry out a preliminary survey and investigation of the IOW Coastline to provide data, information and suggestions about potential coastal path improvements, which will assist the IOW Council ROW Department and Natural England as they start their work in 2017.</p> <p>This will enable Island footpath users to contribute their local knowledge and experience to the Coast Path project. It should also help Natural England and the ROW department carry out their work more effectively.</p> <p>When Natural England publish a Coastal Path route for consultation. IOW user groups will have the necessary knowledge and information to give constructive feedback.</p> <p>The IOW coastline has been divided into 11 stretches and survey teams of 2-3 volunteers have carried out surveys and written reports for each stretch. A total of 26 people have been involved in this work representing a range of different organisations.</p>	<p>Mike Slater</p>
<p><b><u>Potential path claims under 20 yr use provisions</u></b></p> <p>Bonchurch.</p> <p>A locked gate at the rear of the churchyard has now been unlocked. No further action as this is purely a local non definitive path which does not need to be claimed provided it is available for use.</p> <p>Chillerton.</p> <p>The Parish Council have approved investigation of the possibility of claiming the route (from the main village road to a chalk quarry on Open Access Land) with advice from the Ramblers.</p>	<p>John Hague</p>

	<p>Pondwell to Seaview.</p> <p>100 leaflets have been distributed, mainly in Pondwell, a few in Seaview, asking for residents with a knowledge of use of the route to contact me. There has already been some response and I will now meet with them and fill in the forms (five completed so far).</p> <p>Councillor Reg Barry (local member) supports the initiative. Pondwell Residents Association have circulated their committee.</p> <p>I am attending a Parish Council meeting where this will be an agenda item.</p> <p>I have asked the County Press Village Talk column to insert a small column asking for contacts to come forward</p>	
	<p><b>Historic Lost Ways</b></p> <p>Mike Slater attended a Ramblers conference in Birmingham on this subject. Training days are being scheduled in 2017. We are discussing this subject with potential IOW Ramblers volunteers.</p> <p>A presentation outlining lost ways issues was given to Brading Town council.</p>	Mike Slater
F6	<p><b>Footpath Planning Submissions</b></p> <p>There have been 2 applications during the latter part of 2015 which were resolved in 2016 and 11 applications in 2016 of which there are 4 still to be decided.</p> <p>Six were approved, 1 refused and 2 withdrawn, one of those withdrawn was resubmitted and finally approved.</p> <p>Some of these applications impinged directly on the rights of way others affected them during the proposed development work only. Either way objections or observations were noted in the submissions with, as appropriate, suggestions for conditions to be included as part of the Decision Notice.</p>	Adrian Tavill
	<p><b>Walking Activities and Groups</b></p>	
W1	<p><b>Group 1 walks programme</b></p> <p>(Chairman's notes)  During 2016 a total of 256 walks took place. This was 26% more than in 2015.  The Sunday morning 5 mile walk continues to draw new</p>	Steve Gibson

	<p>members. The Saturday 15 mile walk developed a more flexible approach to scheduling walks. Each Thursday 7 to 10 mile walks took place. Summer evening walks increased and a variety of other walks were scheduled at other times.</p>	
W2	<p><b>Wight Sole Report</b></p> <p>(Chairman's notes)  Wight Sole comprises approx 50 working age members. The group programmes two Sunday walks each month.</p>	Gary Clarke
W3	<p><b>Walking Holidays and Day Trips</b></p> <p><b>SPRING BREAK – WESTON-SUPER-MARE - 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016</b></p> <p>Our year started with a 5 day Spring break with Dunwood Travel to Weston-Super-Mare which was enjoyed by 45 members who stayed at the comfortable Birchfield Hotel on the sea front overlooking the Marine Lake. On our first day's excursion to Cheddar Gorge we were met by Tony Strange from the West Mendip Ramblers who led us up onto the top of the gorge and on our way down to Black Rock Nature Reserve we encountered a snow flurry which made the rocky descent treacherous. We continued on up the windy West Mendip Way before heading back down the Gorge to Cheddar where the sun was shining.</p> <p>A coach excursion to Bristol the following day took us to the first of Brunel's constructions, the Clifton Suspension Bridge where those brave enough to cross had good views down the Avon Gorge. The coach then dropped us all at the "SS Great Britain", the world's first iron-hulled ocean going steamship, another of Brunel's engineering masterpieces which many chose to explore while others enjoyed a walk along the harbour into town. There were many boats to see including the replica of the sailing ship "The Matthew" used by John Cabot when he discovered Newfoundland. Some walked up Brandon Hill and climbed to the top of the Cabot Tower for panoramic views over Bristol and beyond while others entered the M Shed, a museum dedicated to Bristol's past history.</p> <p>Our last day was spent in and around WSM. Our own Ed Fillbrook kindly led a walk from the Hotel, out across the</p>	Jackie Hough

causeway separating the marine lake from the sea and through Weston Woods to Kewstoke. Some took the bus back while others continued out to Sand Point with views across to South Wales. A perfect end to a chilly week but plenty of warmth amongst our members after the free drinks and dancing!

**DAY OUTING (Howards Way) - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

This year we dispensed with a coach and used water transport, starting with the Floating Bridge to Cowes. We hired a 70 seater “Jenny” boat from Solent & Wight Line Cruises to take us across the Solent to Warsash where we began our 6 mile walk up the River Hamble to Bursledon. The forecast was not good but we had a dry walk to Bursledon Brickworks Museum, the last surviving example of a steam-driven brickworks in the country. We were welcomed at the gate and taken into the café where tea, coffee and a selection of home-made cakes were ready for us. We were split into three groups for an informative and interesting tour of the brickworks which was fired up and working for us.

The walk continued past the Elephant Boat Yard, over the Hamble and close to the “Jolly Sailor” at Old Bursledon. A picnic lunch was taken in the Mallards Moor woods on our route back into Hamble but the rain came and a soaked group headed for the pubs and cafes of Hamble. Our ferry back to Warsash had given up for the day and so a Water Taxi did a good trade in getting us back 12 at a time! Our “Jenny” boat was waiting to take an even wetter journey back across the Solent to Cowes.

**WELSH VALLEYS WALKING HOLIDAY – 25<sup>th</sup> Sept – 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2016**

For this holiday we used Success Tours from Wiltshire and stayed just outside Chepstow at the St Pierre Marriott Hotel, which was enjoyed by 42 ramblers. Our 4\* Hotel overlooking a lake was a stunning 14<sup>th</sup> century manor house set in picturesque parkland.

Leisure facilities included an indoor swimming pool, tennis courts and a championship golf course. Kardan Travel gave us two interesting stops, Avebury Rings on our way up and Glastonbury with the option to walk up to the Tor on our

journey back from the Hotel.

The walking was harder than expected for the Wye Valley but the option of even shorter walks of 3/4 miles was taken up by quite a few. Steve Hunt from the Lower Wye Ramblers led a circular long walk from Monmouth, there was an option of an even shorter walk along the Wye River ending in Redbrook with bus return whilst a medium walk continued uphill to join Offas Dyke Path with views across the valley to the Black Mountains on one side and the Forest of Dean on the other. The highlight was the magnificent viewpoint from the Kymin, a Naval temple built in 1800 which rises 800ft above Monmouth. From here a descent through woodland led us back into the town.

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). Those on the short walk had a surprise on reaching the river as they had to cross it on a rope suspension bridge to the west side and then followed the path to Symonds Yat where they crossed the river again on a hand pulled ferry.

An excursion to Brecon with a cruise down the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal on a narrowboat was most welcome mid-week as was an easy flat walk from the Hotel on our free day to Mathern & Wyelands with views across to both Severn bridges. The afternoon spent relaxing in the sunshine or using the Hotel's excellent leisure facilities.

It was a hard walk on our last day from Chepstow Castle to Tintern Abbey along the Wye Valley Walk via the Piercefield Estate led by Jackie Colclough and members of the Lower Wye Ramblers. There was quite a climb up to the Eagles Nest with good views, a walk through a cave before getting a good soaking just before lunch. Thankfully with the help of some of our stronger male walkers, we all survived the descent in treacherous conditions but the sun came out to finish off a good week and a well earned cuppa at Tintern.

### **GRAND TOUR OF INDIA – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

12 Members of the IW Ramblers participated in this adventurous tour over a 3 week period visiting Delhi, the pink city of Jaipur, Agra (Taj Mahal), Ranthambore National



	<p>Park (some saw the elusive tiger), the annual Camel Fair at Pushkar in the Thar Desert before flying to Bangalore and visiting Hassan and the fabled city of Mysore. A guided walk into the coffee and spice plantations in Coorg's misty green hills and a visit to the Tibetan settlement of Bylakuppe was rounded off with a visit to the Dubare Elephant Camp where we got very wet washing them in the muddy river. Flying on to Cochin we toured the Kerala region of Southern India including a boat journey on the tranquil backwaters. We ended our tour with a walk to the Lighthouse at Kovalam before flying back to Mumbai.</p> <p><b>2017</b></p> <p>Plans for a spring break in Llandudno in April are well under way with deposits paid as is 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 5 mile walk along the River Test visiting a number of Heritage Mills ending at the Silk Mill for tea and cake.</p> <p>A two week walking holiday staying in Paphos, Cyprus is also planned for November.</p>	
W4	<p><b>County Press Walks</b></p> <p>Once a month between March and October one of our 5 mile Sunday Walks is publicised in the County Press. A map and directions describe the route for independent walkers to use, and the general public are invited to join our Sunday Group walk.</p>	David Howarth
W5	<p><b>Ramblers National Walk About Festival 3-11 September</b></p> <p>IOW Ramblers contributed to this national event by scheduling 10 walks ranging from 3 mile introduction walks to 15 mile long distance walks. It was publicised in the local press and social media. Over 100 people participated including 10 people new to the Ramblers.</p>	Mike Slater David Howarth
	<b>Countryside and Open Spaces</b>	
C1	<p><b>Countryside Planning Submissions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Objected to the Westridge development now subject to a legal dispute with neighbours at Robin Hill. bridleway still closed following landslip from the</li> </ul>	David Howarth

	<p>Westridge tip.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Woodhouse Copse- legal action taken by IW Council</li> <li>○ HF Holiday centre agreed to remove glaring lights overlooking Freshwater Bay</li> <li>○ Atherfield holiday centre nr Brighstone agreed at a lower occupancy.</li> <li>○ New bridleway should be opening soon following the construction of a community solar farm at Ningwood.</li> <li>○ The three applications along the coast at West and East Cowes. We have contacted the Planning Department to ensure a safe coastal trail can be created. Also to suggest a proper link to the cycleway in Arctic Road</li> </ul>	
C2	<p><b>Countryside and Conservation Partnership Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Hedgelaying Competition</b> – attended event in February- good opportunity for networking. Tony Ridd, organiser suggested that we have a display there next year. A marquee is provided.</li> <li>○ <b>Attended CPRE luncheon.</b> They are interested in our Children’s activity sheets and discussed at their meeting on 13 January. The new CPRE chairman is Al Haig-Thomas. Al and Dawn reside at Barton Manor.</li> </ul>	David Howarth
	<b>Coordination and Support Services</b>	
	<b>Engaging and Supporting People</b>	
V1	<p><b>Membership Statistics and Analysis</b></p> <p>Membership as of 30<sup>th</sup> September – 549, of which 57 are Wight Sole</p> <p>2015 this was 528 (58 Wight Sole)</p> <p>2014 this was 535 (41 Wight Sole)</p> <p>2013 547 (39 Wight Sole)</p> <p>2011 &amp; 2012 551 &amp; 552 respectively both with 29 Wight Sole members</p>	Gwyneth Byerley

V2	<p><b>Membership Recruitment initiatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Eight County Press walks</li> <li>○ The National 'Walk About' festival</li> <li>○ Walk the Wight warm up walks</li> <li>○ Stands at three county shows</li> <li>○ Regular publicity about IOW Ramblers in traditional and social media.</li> </ul>	Mike Slater
V3	<p><b>New and existing membership communication</b></p> <p>For each new member we send a personalised welcome letter, the current Walk Talk magazine, a selection of our walks leaflets and Donate a Gate Scheme leaflet.</p> <p>We have 280 members with email addresses who are sent ad hoc emails regarding social events and other items of interest. This is an improvement from last year when we 239 email addresses.</p>	Gwyneth Byerley
V4	<p><b>Volunteer Recruitment Initiatives</b></p> <p><b>Walks Leader Supper.</b> A social get together of 35 experienced and aspiring walks leaders which included a quiz about walking and group discussions about leading walks.</p> <p><b>Footpath Volunteer Supper.</b> A social get together of 15 footpath volunteers plus guest Darrel Clark ROW manager. Presentations were given on the Coastal Path Project and the IOW ROW Improvement Plan.</p> <p>A new volunteer recruitment leaflet has been produced. This also features on the IOW Ramblers web site; has been handed out at walks and made available at shows and similar events.</p> <p>Volunteer vacancies are now published on the web site with full descriptions of roles.</p> <p>Volunteer vacancy information is circulated to our membership Email list.</p> <p>A volunteer spread sheet has been compiled to give accurate information about the volunteers we have and the</p>	Jacky Carter

	<p>roles they perform.</p> <p>We currently have 138 volunteers carrying out 218 roles such as walks leaders, footpath representatives, newsletter distributors, show stand representatives and path maintenance. However we struggle to fill some key organiser and administration roles.</p>	
V5	<p><b>Volunteer Training and Development</b></p> <p>At the Walks Leader Supper 10 trainee Walks Leaders were buddied up with experienced leaders to train as leaders on future recces and group walks.</p> <p>Following training and development needs identified at ‘supper’ events for existing and potential walk leaders and footpath representatives; two map reading training sessions have been held for 8 volunteers.</p> <p>Eighteen volunteers attended briefing sessions in preparation for carrying out coast path survey work.</p> <p>Literature has also been circulated regarding other areas of development and particularly to draw attention to the wealth of information available on the Ramblers National website regarding insurance, rights of way legislation and other topics where further information was required.</p> <p>Mike Slater attended an Area Chairman/Secretary development day in London.</p> <p>David Howarth attended a social media course at Winchester, part of Ramblers development Days.</p>	Jacky Carter
V7	<p><b>Volunteer Recognition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Footpath Volunteer and Walks Leader Suppers</li> <li>○ Regular WalkTalk articles about volunteer activities</li> <li>○ Collection and presentation for John Hague</li> <li>○ A certificate and thank you cards have been received from central office staff.</li> </ul>	Mike Slater
V6	<p><b>Ramblers Social Events</b></p> <p>March 16th 2016 Arreton Hall started with a short walk, then back to hall for a talk from Nick Pointing about both his Hall and driving, his beloved Chitty car to Australia There was a lucky raffle for a ride in “chitty” which was won</p>	Carol Henley

	<p>by Margaret Bucket, a very successful day ending with a high tea, sandwiches, homemade cake and scones, tea/coffee, 29 ramblers attended and with an entry cost of £4, to include the tea, a surplus of £10.20 was made.</p> <p>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, tea/coffee and other beverages were provided at the bar, Unfortunately only 7 ramblers attended, an entry cost of £4, to include the free lesson and supper, but with a short fall of £53.26, due to poor attendance.</p> <p>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, at an entrance of £5, a surplus of £72.02 was made.</p> <p>Christmas lunch was held on 3rd Dec at the Shanklin Conservative club. An excellent 3 course meal with coffee and mince pies was followed by Carols birthday cake. Entertainment by guitarist Spike Oatley, provided an excellent atmosphere and background music. Advanced booking was essential at £20 for the 56 ramblers attending, £100 was collected for the Christmas themed raffle, and a £50 tip was given to the waiting staff. This resulted in a £22 surplus.</p>	
	<p><b>Publicity and Information</b></p>	
<p>P1</p>	<p><b>WalkTalk Newsletter</b></p> <p>Graphic design volunteer Steve Williams has recently moved to Cornwall. Paid help is available from Simone Dickens-Yates. Three editions have been produced over the year and circulated to members and decision makers.</p> <p>Articles included AGM, big pathwatch, John Hague, walk leaders supper, hedgelaying competition, Path Reps supper meeting. Spring edition produced with support from St Marys graphic design at a cost of £200.</p>	<p>Steve Williams David Howarth</p>
<p>P2</p>	<p><b>County Shows and other public facing events</b></p>	<p>Pam Dana David Howarth</p>

	<p>Our Group attended three different island shows this Summer. A total of 43 volunteers took turns manning our stand at Chale, the Garlic Festival and Wolverton. A new pull up banner and handout information was provided highlighting our coastal survey work. A new banner was also produced advertising the Walkabout event along with an information sheet.</p> <p>Also Area assisted at a Healthy Workforce Day for IW Council and at a well being day for primary teachers.</p>	
P3	<p><b>Presentations to interest groups</b></p> <p>Mike Slater gave presentations to the IOW Interest Group and Brading Town Council. David Howarth gave presentations to Newport WI and Yarmouth Sailing Club.</p>	David Howarth
P4	<p><b>Media Publicity</b></p> <p>Accompanied the editor of Countryfile magazine for a walk at Tennyson Down. Article published in the Independent on Sunday in November.</p> <p>Interviewed by IW radio regarding the Coast Path funding.</p> <p>DH interviewed by BBC South Inside Out regarding Woodhouse Copse woodland. Press release re Woodhouse copse resulted in publicity in County Press and Onthewight website.</p> <p>A second Walks Festival gate was opened by Elaine Cesar at Calborne and photo shown in County Press. Donations were received via three Warrior Trail walks led by DH. The 2016 festival donations will provide a third gate dedicated to Elaine Cesar, Senior Events Organiser.</p>	David Howarth
P5	<p><b>Social Media Activity</b></p> <p>Good publicity on social media re NT 36 new steps. Three Facebook pages and twitter account regularly updated - coastal path, Compton steps, Walktalk, AGM, Walk leaders supper, Wellow welly walk, Prostate cancer walk.</p>	David Howarth
P6	<p><b>Walks Leaflets and Books</b></p> <p>Our Vectis Trail book has been completely revised and</p>	David Howarth

	<p>rewritten. Available from local shops or <a href="http://www.iowramblers.com">www.iowramblers.com</a></p> <p>12 favourite walks booklet has been completely rewritten. Maps are copies of hand drawn originals. Electronic maps and illustrations have been obtained from Crossprint. Simone Dickens-Yates is compiling the new edition and the reprint should be available by the end of 2016.</p>																									
P6	<p><b>Web Site - <a href="http://iowramblers.com">iowramblers.com</a></b></p> <p>Our IOW Ramblers web site continues to be updated as a comprehensive tool for Area communication, product sales and Island walking information.</p>	David Howarth																								
<b>Area Council Leadership and Coordination</b>																										
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Area Chair</td> <td>Mike Slater</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area Secretary</td> <td>VACANT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>David Howarth</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Footpath Secretary</td> <td>Mike Marchant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Membership</td> <td>Gwyneth Byerley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Access Officer</td> <td>Mike Slater</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Countryside Officer</td> <td>David Howarth</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newsletter Editor</td> <td>Steve Williams</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Publicity Officer</td> <td>David Howarth</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C'ttee Member</td> <td>John Gurney-Champion</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Volunteer Co-ord</td> <td>Jacky Carter</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Path Reps Co-ordinator</td> <td>David Yates</td> </tr> </table>	Area Chair	Mike Slater	Area Secretary	VACANT	Treasurer	David Howarth	Footpath Secretary	Mike Marchant	Membership	Gwyneth Byerley	Access Officer	Mike Slater	Countryside Officer	David Howarth	Newsletter Editor	Steve Williams	Publicity Officer	David Howarth	C'ttee Member	John Gurney-Champion	Volunteer Co-ord	Jacky Carter	Path Reps Co-ordinator	David Yates	
Area Chair	Mike Slater																									
Area Secretary	VACANT																									
Treasurer	David Howarth																									
Footpath Secretary	Mike Marchant																									
Membership	Gwyneth Byerley																									
Access Officer	Mike Slater																									
Countryside Officer	David Howarth																									
Newsletter Editor	Steve Williams																									
Publicity Officer	David Howarth																									
C'ttee Member	John Gurney-Champion																									
Volunteer Co-ord	Jacky Carter																									
Path Reps Co-ordinator	David Yates																									
	<p>Area Council members as of September 2016 are listed above. Since then several members have stepped down and their positions need to be filled.</p> <p>Six Area council meetings were held during the year.</p>																									
A2	<p><b>Key Ramblers Central communication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We have received several routine letters from the Ramblers Chief Executive.</li> <li>○ Communications about both the Big Pathwatch project and Walk About.</li> <li>○ A certificate of recognition for our Pathwatch work.</li> <li>○ Letters have been exchanged about the Governance Review project.</li> <li>○ Visit from Central Office staff Ed Wilson and Christine Hathway re volunteering.</li> </ul>	Mike Slater																								
A3	<p><b>General Council Representation</b></p> <p>Mike Slater and Rod Senior represented the IOW Ramblers Area at the April 2016 General Council in York.</p>	Mike Slater																								

A4	<p><b>Area Financial Report Summary</b></p> <p>Closing bank balance of £26,847.65, an increase of £2,681.46</p> <p>Restricted Funds:</p> <p>Trappitt Fund £6,965.00- no funds were utilised during the year</p> <p>Donate a gate £13,203.04, an increase of £4,837.60 – there are liabilities of about £7,000, a good healthy surplus.</p> <p>General Fund - £6,679.61, a reduction of £2,156.14. There were significant outstanding items at the yearend:</p> <p>Gift Aid of £2,500 had not yet been received</p> <p>Newsletter printing and promotional costs of £684.60</p> <p>Significant Expenditure:</p> <p>£2,750 was given to support East Wight Landscape Partnership</p> <p>Printing of Vectis trail booklets £559.04</p> <p>Newsletter printing (2 editions) £1,000</p> <p>Group payment £500</p> <p>Significant Income</p> <p>Central Office £1400</p> <p>Donations £735.46 inc Red Funnel £200, Chris Lipscombe £190, Ramblers Holidays £80</p> <p>Book Sales £1655.02 inc internet sales of £288.77</p>	David Howarth
A5	<p><b>Group 1 Finance Report</b></p> <p>This is my second year as your Group Treasurer and our Accounts have remained fairly steady over the past year although we did end in September with a shortfall on last year of £141. 61. This is the combined figure for both the General Fund and the Self-funded socials and day trip. A copy of the Group Income &amp; Expenditure Balance Sheet for the full year has been included with the Newsletter and all</p>	Jackie Hough



members should have received a copy.

The amount of £80.24 in the General Fund is mainly due to the cost of a Walks Leaders Meeting that was held last February but this was budgeted for in our Return to Central Office. 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 as the old one which had lasted many years finally packed up. However the Summer Shows did extremely well with their Sales this year and a good profit was made. Thanks to Pam Dana for all her hard work with the organisation of these Shows and the ordering of the books and maps.

The amount of £61.37 in the Self-funded section is mainly due to the fact that we have paid a deposit on the venue for the 2016 Christmas Lunch but no payments for this had been received before the end of the Financial Year. This will right itself in the first couple of months of the new Financial Year.

Unfortunately some of the Social events have been a little disappointing, despite the hard work and enthusiasm of our Social Secretary – Carol Henley. Thankfully the very successful Barbecue made up the dent in our reserves together with a small profit on the Christmas lunch. The June day excursion also made a small profit after reimbursing those that gave ample notice of cancellation.

The Annual Return has been sent to Central Office and all Group Accounts and Annual Return for the year were agreed and signed by the Group Auditor, Mr Graham White.

If anybody has any queries I will be at the AGM where you are most welcome to take a look at the Treasurers Group file where everything is accounted for in much more detail.