

CHORLEY RAMBLERS' AGM
Thursday, 1 December 2022
Euxton Parish Institute & War Memorial
195 Wigan Road, Euxton, Chorley PR7 6JG

Martin Smalley, Chairman, opened the formal part of the meeting. He said that this was the 49th AGM of the Chorley Ramblers and that next year would be the 50th Anniversary.

Apologies There were 30 people in attendance at the AGM and 2 apologies were received from Geoff Greenwood and John Warner.

Minutes of 2021 AGM Martin advised that a copy of last year's minutes is available on the Chorley Ramblers' website. He asked for someone to move that the minutes be accepted. Phil Atherton accepted the minutes.

Election of Officers The next item of business was the appointment of the committee. Martin advised that due to a change of circumstances, he was now able to stand for re-election. Martin then asked Dennis Wilson to take the chair for the election of the Chairman. Dennis asked if there were any nominations for Chairman. As there were no nominations, he declared Martin Smalley be re-elected as Chairman. This was proposed by Eileen Entwisle and seconded by Lillian Orme.

The following are committee members in their respective positions who have agreed to stand in their various capacities for the Financial Year 2022/2023.

Chairman	Martin Smalley
Vice Chairman	Geoff Greenwood
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Dennis Wilson
Footpath Coordinator	Vacant
Membership Secretary	Eileen Entwisle
Social Media Admin	Martin Smalley
Minutes Secretary	Lillian Orme
Website	Alan Cleator

Martin advised that Sue Poynter was not re-standing as Minutes Secretary and that Lillian Orme was taking over this position. He also advised that Alan Cleator had taken over the running of the Chorley Ramblers' Website which he would discuss further in the Chairman's Annual Report. The election of the committee members was discussed and accepted by the meeting

Chairman's Annual Report from Martin Smalley Generally speaking, Chorley has had a good year. Our membership has held up, Eileen will speak more on that later. Our finances are looking in good shape, more from Dennis on that.

After numerous requests we re-started the coach walks this year and they are proving successful. Denny Robinson was a hard act to follow but by sharing the roles between us with Nigel looking after the sketch maps and Carole and Dennis looking after the financial side the coach walks have now fallen into a regular routine. The Coast to

Coast walk started in June with around 48 people, but that has now dropped to about 36 regular walkers and not all those can make it every month because of other family or holiday commitments. People have dropped out for various reasons. The Lake District stages have proved far tougher than expected for some walkers and the Cockermouth Mountain Rescue service had to be called out in August to a lady who found it particularly hard going. Other people have also dropped out through injury.

The winter Cheshire Circuit walk has proved to be a little more difficult to 'sell' to people as it is not as well known or iconic as the Coast to Coast but nevertheless, we should break even on it over the course of the year.

Our Facebook page has just broken through the 1000 followers mark and is our main vehicle for communicating with the public in general and any prospective new walkers.

Talking about communications, you may have seen our brand new website which has gone live in the last couple of weeks. The old website, which we had for around 5 years or so, could not be maintained any more so we have started afresh with a new site, the new Ramblers logo and clearer links to other Ramblers pages. Alan Cleator is the man who has designed the site for us and he has spent a considerable amount of time on it.

Alan has worked in the background of Chorley Ramblers for some years now, uploading the 'walks programme' on to the national Ramblers site so that other groups can see it and it is something that he is very knowledgeable about. Alan has also kindly volunteered to join the committee as Website Manager.

Talking about the committee you will notice from your agenda that the Chorley group is running very much with a skeleton committee at the moment and this means that more jobs are falling on fewer shoulders. We have no Footpath Co-ordinator so there is no footpath report this year. All of our footpath checkers are reporting problems directly to LCC, but we have no way of monitoring 'who does what' so we do not know whether the situation is better or worse than previous years.

We have no Secretary and so the Secretary's role tends to be spread amongst other committee members. Sue Poynter is our Minutes Secretary, but she wishes to step down this year because of other commitments. Sue has done a good job whilst she has been on the committee and will be missed. Lilian has very kindly agreed to join the committee and take over that role. I will be staying on as Chairman, but we really need more people to help to run the group or there is a very real possibility that Chorley Ramblers will not continue in its present form. The full committee only meets about 4 times a year, so it is not an onerous responsibility. If you want to help out in some way, but not be a full committee member, that is OK. It really is a case of 'many hands make light work'. If you can help in any way to keep us going then please, talk to us.

It is the same with walk leaders, even though we have a healthy membership it is the same handful of people who put the walks on to the programme. We really need more leaders. If it is just a question of confidence, then come along on a recce to see what is involved. It really is easy. I am concerned that our successful group could fold simply because there are not enough people to help run Chorley Ramblers.

Treasurer's Report from Dennis Wilson Dennis talked through this year's accounts, a copy of which had been given out to all attendees.

Account Balances as at 30 September 2022

<u>Current Year 2022</u>		<u>Prior Year 2021</u>
7156.96	Restricted (T/Lewis)	7479.53
1595.26	Main CR A/c	1822.68
2364.23	Self-funded Coach A/c	1972.39
£11,116.45	TOTALS	£11,274.61

Main Income Total £5,574.21

Head Office Funding	449.51
Donations (RWH-Ramblers Worldwide Holidays)	50.00
Christmas Dinners (Self-funded Contributions)	407.70
TSB Coach Account receipts (Self-funded day walks)	4,667.00

Main Expenditure Total £5,732.37

Printing (Walk Programme & Leaflets, etc)	31.00
Walk Related (Admin Postage, Stamps, etc)	59.84
Website Admin	63.31
Footpath Waymarkers	435.54
Christmas Dinners (Self funded contributions)	406.05
Various expenses & Bank Charges	138.90
C2C Guide Books/First Aid Kits (using Terry Lewis money)	322.57
TSB Coach Account payments (self-funded day walks)	4,275.16

Dennis advised that the accounts have already been audited by John Warner and sent off to the Head Office. He also advised that John Warner had agreed to stand as auditor for the next financial year.

There was a general discussion with regard to the Terry Lewis money. The meeting was advised that Chorley and Adlington Councils had been approached re benches and this offer was currently being reviewed. Derek Statters suggested adopting Trig points as a way to promote the Ramblers. Marian Owen and Janet Howarth (who is also Treasurer of the Friends of Healey Nab) suggested a bench at the top of the Nab. Janet to send a copy of the map of landowners to Marian so this can be reviewed.

Dennis reminded the meeting that there are restrictions on the use of the Terry Lewis money in that it can only be spent if it benefits everyone.

Other Officers Reports

Membership Report from Eileen Entwisle

The Ramblers "year" is 1 October to 30 September. For the last few years our membership has been as follows:

The year ending 30 September 2018 - 314 members

The year ending 30 September 2019 – 341 members

Year ending 30 September 2020 – 351 members

Year ending 30 September 2021 – 366 members

And at this year's end 30 September 2022 - 367 members

During the period 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022, 65 people have been welcomed to Chorley Ramblers. However, a similar number have left the group. We have had 2 deaths during the last 12 months and others have either:

1. Changed their group within our Area- Mid Lancashire.
2. Moved to a different Area in the country.
3. Resigned from The Ramblers.
4. Let their membership lapse. Of the members who have lapsed, about 15% joined within the last couple of years.

Walk Coordinator Report from Eileen Entwisle

I am not sure how I have become the Walk Coordinator apart from default as there is no one left to do the job. I do not want this job!

During the year there have been walks on a Sunday, Tuesday and a Saturday for most weeks resulting in over 140 walks being provided. Saturdays are usually a full day's walk while Sundays can be either a full day or half a day's walk. Tuesdays are an afternoon walk starting at 1pm or an evening walk during the summer months.

The walk programme continues to be emailed to members on a fortnightly basis using the email address: chorleyramblers@gmail.com This allows walks to be added at much shorter lead times giving leaders more freedom to add walks when it suits them. Thanks go to Alan Cleator for entering the walk details on The Ramblers National website.

If anyone does not receive the emailed walk programme and would like to, they need to update Head Office with their preference to receive the "walk programme" emails. They also need to check their email address is recorded correctly with them.

This can be done by emailing ramblers@ramblers.org.uk or telephoning them on 020 3961 3232 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm). They also need to check their junk folder.

However, we are extremely short of walk leaders at the moment. Please, if anyone would like to offer a walk, maybe their favourite walk, do speak to any leader or myself. Support is always available to gain confidence if needed. Thanks go to the current leaders for keeping the programme going, but more help is definitely needed!

Any Other Business

- Dave Millington said that the new website does not show who to send the walks to. Alan Cleater advised that they need to go to Google Docs and that he will amend the website to show this.
- Chorley Ramblers' 50th Anniversary was discussed. Eileen Entwisle and Marian Owen said that they are looking at how we can celebrate this anniversary. Eileen said that she has booked the display cabinet at Chorley Library for October 2023 as the first walk had taken place on 6 October 1973. She said that volunteers are needed to help put together the display and that they should contact herself or Marian. Marian asked if we could look at using some of Terry Lewis' legacy money.

Eileen said that there will be some commemorative walks especially on the first weekend of October, ie Saturday - the Chorley Circular Walk and Sunday - a repeat of the very first Chorley Rambler walk, as well as a series of walks between June and October.

Phil Atherton suggested that we could maybe look at having a Walking Festival Week.

- Jack Sugden said that the footpath by Botany Bay from the canal to the motorway really needs to be looked at. Martin advised that there was no footpath officer to refer it to. Jack volunteered to do this area as well as Rivington.

The meeting came to a close at 19:50 hrs