

MINUTES OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT TROWELL PARISH HALL ON
SUNDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2022 AT 2.00 PM

The record of attendance shows 71 members were present at the Annual General Meeting, see Appendix I.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF THE AREA OFFICERS & GUESTS

Jim welcomed members to the first actual meeting since 2020 and thanked Nottingham Group for ensuring compliance with all the Covid safety rules. Jim stated it was a pleasure to be able to Chair such a well organised and well attended AGM. Special thanks were given to walk leaders, those serving the refreshments and to Adrian Amer for the tiramisu! This was the second time Nottingham had hosted the AGM in the Trowell Parish Hall.

Very sadly, this was the first AGM without Alex Staniforth who had died during the year. Alex had made an outstanding contribution to Area over many years, holding most of the Area roles. Marion had been present over lunch with a display about Alex and had sold items with the money raised donated to Nottinghamshire Area Ramblers. There was a minute's silence in memory of Alex.

Jim introduced Kate Ashbrook who had also been the representative of the Board of Trustees at the AGM in 2019. Jim then introduced Paddy Tipping, Area President and the Area Officers. Although Jim was standing down at the AGM, he would remain as the Gedling Group Area Council delegate. Jim drew the attention of members to the new Ramblers logo on the display.

2. OVERVIEW FROM THE AREA PRESIDENT

Paddy Tipping, Area President thanked members for attending the AGM – it was good to see so many people after a difficult two years for everyone. Paddy said one positive had been walking his own patch and meeting new walkers who were potential recruits. Ramblers membership had been rising and we were the only organisation campaigning for the right to walk. There were new opportunities for public access to the countryside but Ramblers needed to keep the Government to its promises.

Paddy thanked Jim and all the Officers. The death of Alex had been a blow and Marion was encouraged to keep in touch. Kate had visited Nottingham in 2021 for the Inclosure Walk and Paddy thanked Kate for her contribution to Ramblers over many years.

Paddy confirmed he was willing to stay on as President for another year.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Jeremy Pratt, Pam Duesbury, Keith and Janet Ross, Rosanna Rapacchietta.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 7th February 2021 were passed as a true record.

Proposed: Chris Thompson

Seconded: Sue Jones

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

There were no matters arising.

6. REPORT ON MOTIONS PASSED AT THE PREVIOUS AGM

There were no motions last year.

7. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS (2020 – 2021)

The Area Officers Annual Reports and Accounts covering the period 1st October 2020 – 31st September 2021 had been published on the Notts Area website. Several Officers added to their written reports:

7.1 Chair's Report – Jim thanked the Officers for their support over the last three years.

7.2 Area Secretary's Report – Alex had produced the AGM papers for the last three years and Judith thanked other Officers for their support in ensuring these papers matched that high standard. Since the Report had been written the new Ramblers branding had been published. There had been on line events about the new Ramblers website and Walks Manager which would replace GWEM in showing Group walks.

7.3 Area Rights of Way Secretary – Steve said Alex had been at the forefront of the development of rights of way in Nottinghamshire and would be sadly missed.

7.4 Area Countryside Officer – Sue reported the Environment Bill had now become legislation.

7.5 Area Tourism and Heritage Path Officer – Chris was working to develop the role.

7.6 Group Reports – Jim stressed the importance of Groups sharing information and ideas through their reports at Area Council. The discussion sessions at Council were focused on Group issues. The April session was on To Book or Not to Book (i.e. to attend a walk). Jim thanked all Groups for their work over another difficult year.

7.7 The Report and Accounts were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Steve Parkhouse

Seconded: Sue Rick

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

11 Officers were elected. See Appendix II for the proposer and seconder. James encouraged a member to come forward as Groups Officer.

9. RAMBLERS' GENERAL COUNCIL 2022

This would take place at the NEC, Birmingham Saturday 9th April 2022. Unfortunately only the two voting delegates appointed by the AGM were allowed to attend. Under standing orders one of these would automatically be the Area Secretary, Judith Anson. It was agreed the second representative would be Neil Stafford. It was hoped that visitors would be allowed in 2023 as Nottinghamshire Area had always paid for two visitors.

10. MOTIONS

- 10.1 Motions relating to Nottinghamshire Area – none received.
- 10.2 Motions to go to General Council 2022 – none received.

11. SPEAKER – KATE ASHBROOK, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kate opened her talk by saying how pleased she was to be back in Nottinghamshire and she was impressed with the activity by Area and Groups. Kate said she missed Alex, who had been the AGM Coordinator on her last visit. Alex was dependable and willing and had made a huge contribution to Ramblers over many years. Alex's Secret Life entry on the Area website quoted that he had "never stopped learning" which summed up Alex. Kate thanked the Officers and particularly Paddy with whom Kate had worked for many years to advance the rights of walkers.

Kate referred to the promises made three years ago in the Agriculture Bill but the reality in the Act had been different. The December announcement on sustainable incentives for farming could have meant better access but this was not in the Act. It was unclear what access would mean in practice. Kate referred to where the morning walks had been and the importance of giving incentives to farmers.

Sue Jones was thanked for her Report on the Environment Act. Although Ramblers had tried to have access included it had not happened. Members needed to lobby the government to hold them to account. The Police Bill and criminalising trespass could affect access to the countryside and restrict protest from Ramblers on access. The House of Lords was supportive of several aspects of access.

The England coast path was being created with Ramblers claiming the credit. A walking project was also underway in Wales while Scotland already had the right to roam but work was going ahead on definitive paths. Helen Bates, a member of Ramblers staff on the Paths Team, lived in Nottinghamshire and had been attending the Area Rights of Way Committee. The Covid pandemic and lockdowns had encouraged more people to walk and the potential health improvements should be picked up by government. The Walkers are Welcome network demonstrated how walkers could contribute to the economy of rural communities.

Kate thanked Steve Parkhouse for the excellent work in Nottinghamshire on Don't Lose Your Way. Nationally the work was funded by The People's Postcode Lottery and Ramblers Worldwide Holidays. Ramblers continued to work towards the removal of the 2026 deadline but a Stakeholder Group meeting had been cancelled at short notice.

The Levelling Up White Paper could help with protection of urban open spaces but no details were available. Ramblers were working on this with a pressure group. Kate referred to the Inclosure Walk and Town Trail in Nottingham and praised the open spaces in the City.

The new branding was shown on the banners with the emphasis on protecting and enjoying the countryside. It was important the brand appealed to people considering joining Ramblers and was attractive to young people. The emphasis needed to be on the Ramblers unique selling point – rights of way. The Board of Trustees was working on increasing diversity and including people from different backgrounds. Kate encouraged people to stand for election to the Board.

The new Chief Executive would be appointed by the end of February and Kate stressed the temporary CEO had done an excellent job at a very difficult time. There was an exciting future for Ramblers recognising what the organisation stood for but also moving forward. Although Kate was standing down from the Board, her involvement with Ramblers would continue.

Jim thanked Kate for her presentation and opened the session for questions.

Dave Hobson commented about Wellbeing Walks and there were links with Central Office but not with Nottinghamshire Area as it seemed to be managed separately without local involvement. Jim added that he and Sue Jones had attended a number of Zoom events about how Walking for Health was being set up in Nottinghamshire. Kate said she would take this back to Central Office.

Chris Thompson commented on the 2026 cut off date and work being undertaken on Don't Lose Your Way. Helen Bates replied that the map was currently being compiled. Steve Parkhouse had not been able to access the national archives because of the Covid restrictions.

Randy Barber raised concerns about the burden of risk assessment forms for walk leaders which was putting people off leading walks. Kate informed the AGM there were motions at General Council on risk assessments and the requirement to retain forms for 3 years could be reviewed. The Board of Trustees believed risk assessments were good practice but accepted the changes had not been communicated to members effectively. Sue Gosrani commented the Ramblers app was helpful so people joining a walk who were not members could be encouraged to join. It was suggested because risk assessments had only been introduced to meet Covid requirements, they were no longer required and members could be asked to sign a document saying they walked at their own risk. Myke Duncan added that people were often asked to sign a waiver clause for activities involving risk.

Jim hoped Kate would continue to keep in touch with Nottinghamshire Ramblers and continue to attend events.

12. **PRESENTATION OF PRIZES FOR AREA PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**

Kate presented the prizes in the Area photographic competition. The subject was Hidden Nottinghamshire. All winners received a jigsaw donated by Joyce Pedersen, Chair of the Judges and a printed copy of their photograph donated by Neil Stafford. The first prize winner also received a pair of walking poles donated by Cotswold Outdoor.

5th place – A Popular Parish
Location - the pond at Vicar Water

Neil Stafford, Rushcliffe Group

4th place – Winter Sunset,
Location - Clumber Lake at sunset

Myke Duncan, Worksop Group

3rd place – That Sinking Feeling, Lynn Baldwick, Rushcliffe Group
Location:- Skylarks Nature Reserve, Holme Pierrepont

2nd place – For My Eyes Only Sue Jones, Rushcliffe Group
Location - Highfield Park, Nottingham University

1st place – A Misty Stroll Annick Bootman, Worksop Group
Location – Chesterfield Canal, Shireoaks

13. REMARKS FROM SUE RICK, NEW AREA CHAIR

Sue said she was looking forward to starting her new role. Sue thanked Jim for all his hard work on the Notts Area Committee and wished him well. She also thanked everyone for voting for her and was keen to meet with the walking groups

Sue introduced herself: - "I'm from a Youth Work background so my first experience of leading walks was with young people. I think it's important to encourage more younger people to be involved in the Ramblers and to enable them to carry on the Ramblers' objectives as they are our future. With the increase in membership over the last year or so since the Covid pandemic due to more people participating in local walks, it's also important to promote and raise awareness of all the Ramblers' campaigning aims to new members and the general public - whether at a local level or through county events as a joint effort. I look forward to the coming year working with you all."

14. DATE OF NEXT AREA AGM SUNDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2023

The next Area Annual General Meeting would be held on Sunday, 5th February 2021. **Post Meeting Note:** the AGM will be organised by Southwell Group.

APPENDIX I

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SUNDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY 2022

ATTENDANCE LIST

Adkins	Roy	Mansfield & Sherwood
Amer	Adrian	Area Vice-Chair
Anson	Judith	Area Secretary
Ashbrook	Kate	Board of Trustees
Barber	Randy	Nottingham
Barnfather	Janet	Mansfield & Sherwood
Bates	Helen	Southwell & Central Office
Bootman	Annick	Worksop
Bramley	Stephen	Mansfield & Sherwood
Bull	Kathryn	Rushcliffe
Chambers	John	Broxtowe
Cornwell	H	Mansfield & Sherwood
Coxon	Keith	Rushcliffe
Coxon	Clare	Rushcliffe
Dalton	E. A.	Rushcliffe
Darwent	Heather	Gedling
Dobson	Barbara	Nottingham
Dobson	David	Nottingham
Doody	Dave	Nottingham
Duncan	Julie	Worksop
Duncan	Myke	Worksop
Ellis	Alex	Mansfield & Sherwood
Fenton	Paul	Vale of Belvoir
Fern	Diane	Mansfield & Sherwood
Goldsbury	Karen	Mansfield & Sherwood
Herrick	David	Worksop
Hewing	Linde	Nottingham
Hobson	Elaine	Vale of Belvoir
Hobson	Dave	Vale of Belvoir
Hooley	John	Nottingham
Ingram	Bob	One Step Walkers
Ingram	Heather	One Step Walkers
Johnson	Dave	Southwell
Johnson	Dave	Nottingham
Johnson	Polly	Gedling
Jones	Sue	Area Countryside Officer
Lera	Louisa	Nottingham
Marette	Cynthia	Rushcliffe
Marjoram	Teresa	Nottingham

Matthews	Di	Nottingham
Matthews	Stephen	Nottingham
Mee	Carol	Nottingham
Mullen	Sue	Mansfield & Sherwood
Munro	Diana	Worksop
Muxlow	Jo	Nottingham
Muxlow	Trevor	Nottingham
Norcross	Tony	Area Minutes Secretary
Norris	Jim	Area Chair
Parkhouse	Steve	RoW Secretary
Parkinson	Gail	Vale of Belvoir
Pederson	Joyce	Newark
Pilgrim	Colleen	Gedling
Rek	Jan	Mansfield & Sherwood
Rick	Susan	Mansfield & Sherwood
Shield	B	Nottingham
Somerville	Peter	Southwell
Stafford	Neil	Area Treasurer
Stock	Mike	Rushcliffe
Thompson	Chris	Area Tourism & Heritage Officer
Tipping	Paddy	Area President
Tuffnell	Brian	Mansfield & Sherwood
Turner	Dave	Newark
Turner	Isobel	Newark
Wagstaff	Paul	Nottingham
Walker	Debbie	Nottingham
Watts	Andrew	Nottingham
Whittaker	Ralph	One Step Walkers
Woolley	Val	Mansfield & Sherwood
Young	John	Vale of Belvoir

APPENDIX II

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SUNDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY 2022

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Paddy Tipping

The following Area Officers were elected:

AREA CHAIR

Nominated: Judith Anson

Sue Rick

Seconded: Julie Lawson

AREA VICE CHAIR

Nominated: Carol Wilkinson

Adrian Amer

Seconded: Joyce Pedersen

SECRETARY

Nominated: Mike Stock

Judith Anson

Seconded: Rob Turner

TREASURER

Nominated: Mike Stock

Neil Stafford

Seconded: Rob Turner

RIGHTS OF WAY SECRETARY

Nominated: Brian Tuffnell

Steve Parkhouse

Seconded: Pauline Parkhouse

TOURISM & HERITAGE PATHS OFFICER

Nominated: Jenny Fillingham

Chris Thompson

Seconded: Rod Fillingham

COUNTRYSIDE OFFICER

Nominated: Mike Stock

Sue Jones

Seconded: Joyce Pedersen

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Nominated: Steve Parkhouse

Diana Munro

Seconded: Myke Duncan

PRESS & PUBLICITY OFFICER

Vacant

GROUPS OFFICER

Vacant

AREA WEBMASTER

Nominated: Jim Norris

Chris Taylor

Seconded: Judith Anson

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Nominated: Sue Jones

Steve Parkhouse

Seconded: Pauline Parkhouse

MINUTES SECRETARY

Nominated: Neil Stafford

Tony Norcross

Seconded: Judith Anson