



The Annual General Meeting of the Bridgnorth & District Walking Club will be held on Thursday 25th November 2021 at 7.30 pm at the Bridgnorth Library.

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the 2020 AGM, for approval
3. Matters arising, not otherwise on the agenda.
4. Chair's report, Clive Dyson.
5. Treasurer's report, Tim Day
6. Programme Secretary's report, Hilary Davies
7. Holiday Report, Anne Furlong.
8. Report on RA activities (Shropshire Area), Anne Furlong
9. Proposals for, and Election of, Club officers and committee members, and Ramblers Association delegate. These are currently:

Chair – Clive Dyson will stand again;
Vice Chair – Dave Jones standing down;
Secretary – Caroline Haigh will stand again;
Treasurer – Tim Day will stand again;
Programme Secretary – Hilary Davies will stand again;
Ordinary Members – Anne Furlong, RA delegate, will stand again;

Pam Day nominated by committee to be Vice Chair;
Karen Crawford nominated by committee to be Social Media Editor;
Marion Law willing to stand again;
Martin Howitt willing to stand again;
Ali Sacre willing to stand again.

Independent examiner – to be appointed annually at the AGM – Keith Fradgley nominated by Committee.

10. Fiftieth anniversary celebration/Spring Meal.
11. Comments and suggestions from members.
12. Any other business.



MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRIDGNORTH AND DISTRICT WALKING CLUB ON THURSDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2020 USING THE ZOOM PLATFORM.

PRESENT: Clive Dyson (Chairman), Dave Jones (Vice Chair), Tim Day (Treasurer), Marion Law (Secretary), Hilary Davies (Programme Secretary), Kate Dyson, Anne Furlong, Martin Howitt, Caroline Haigh.

Gill Steed, Keith and Vick Chandler, Ian and Shirley Kidd, Pam Day, Ruth and Peter Dunkley, Ali Sacre, Keith Fradgley and Tammy Ratoff.

APOLOGIES:

John Bourne, Bob Bosson, Dot Cox, Bob Coughlan, Eileen Reynolds, Ina Roberts , Ron Vaughan.

1. MINUTES OF 2019 AGM

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

2. MATTERS ARISING:

There were none not otherwise on the agenda.

3. CHAIRMAN`S REPORT

Clive Dyson`s report had been circulated to members in advance. As a result of the Covid pandemic, Clive said that there had been much cancelling of walks and of two of the booked holidays, one to Crianlarich and one to Pembrokeshire. All members payments had been refunded for both holidays. He thanked all members of the committee, walk leaders and Hilary in particular for her work on the programme and everyone for their patience.

A paragraph reporting on the work of the ROWs group is included in Clive`s report.

4. TREASURER`S REPORT - 31ST OCTOBER 2020

Tim Day`s report had been circulated with the agenda.

He reported that the Club had 47 paying members which was 6 fewer than the previous year and that the balance on the Club`s General Account was £671.47 and the Holiday Account was £612.44 including £180.00 for deposits towards next year`s holiday.

He recommended keeping the subscription at £12 per person for the current year 2020/21 and kept at the same level for next year 2021/22.

Keith Fradgley asked whether a reduction in the subscription had been considered but Tim preferred to keep the subscription at the same level for ease of administration and for consistency. Clive pointed out that this was still only £1 a month.

Tim also reported that there would be additional expenditure items to be charged to the accounts in 2020/21.

Vic pointed out that membership was down (by 6) from the previous year. Pam said potential new members should be encouraged in the light of renewed interest in walking during the pandemic. She said that several new members had joined the Ramblers.

Clive said that he would write to members encouraging them to re-join and to walk with the Club and also contact some potential new members who had indicated they were interested in joining the Club.

ACTION – CLIVE.

Tim also reported that Clive and he had successfully obtained a full refund of monies paid to the company who owned the Crianlarich Hotel and that everyone had therefore been fully reimbursed.

The accounts had yet to be reviewed by the Independent Examiner, Keith Fradgley, because of the current “lockdown”. Keith asked the meeting to thank the Treasurer for all his work.

The Accounts and Subscription proposals were approved unanimously.

5. PROGRAMME SECRETARY’S REPORT

Hilary Davies’s report had been circulated with the agenda.

Hilary added that six months of walks had been cancelled, but that some members had continued to walk in small, self-organised groups.

The Chairman thanked Hilary for the work she put into organising the programme.

Anne Furlong also reported on arrangements for next year’s May holiday in the Lake District. People had paid individual deposits to the hotel to obtain the benefit of credit card protection.

6. THE RAMBLERS - SHROPSHIRE AREA REPORT

Anne Furlong’s report had been circulated in advance. Anne said that the important information was that Will Tandy, of Shropshire Young Ramblers, had been appointed Area Chair, following Peter Carr’s retirement after nine years. Will was keen to use new technology to promote the Ramblers and walking. Anne Suffolk was currently standing in for Will during his wife’s illness, but Will expected to return as soon as possible.

Anne particularly reported that footpath work in the county continued in the local groups and reports of footpath problems were made to Shropshire Council, and that the Area Environment Officer, Trevor Allison, was very active in keeping up to date on planning applications and their effect on the local rights of way network.

Anne was impressed by the work of the Ramblers Area organisation, especially in relation to rights of way matters.

7. PROPOSALS for, and the ELECTION of, COMMITTEE MEMBERS and OFFICERS and RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION DELEGATE

Chairman: Clive Dyson said that he would stand for one more year.

Secretary: Marion Law was standing down. The Committee had proposed that Caroline Haigh be appointed Secretary.

Treasurer: Tim Day was willing to stand again.

Programme Secretary: Hilary Davies was willing to stand again.

Vice Chair: Dave Jones was willing to stand again, but not necessarily as Chair next year.

Ordinary members: Mary Loach was standing down

Anne Furlong, Martin Howitt, Ali Sacre, were proposed as ordinary members.

Anne Furlong was confirmed as the representative of the Club at Ramblers Shropshire Area.

All the above proposals were approved.

The AGM also recommended that the Committee co-opt Marion Law to benefit from her long experience.

9. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER.

Keith Fradgley was re-appointed as Independent Examiner.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Kate Dyson reported that arrangements for the 50th anniversary celebration had been cancelled as a result of the restrictions on social events due to the pandemic. She thanked those who had volunteered their help. It was hoped to hold an alternative event during 2021. Clive appealed for members to send photographs of former Club activities for the website to mark the 50th anniversary -

ACTION Hilary/Clive

The next AGM would be on 25th November 2021 at Bridgnorth Library.

Clive closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their "virtual" attendance.

Bridgnorth and District Walking Club

Chairman's Report – 2021 AGM

A bit like walking in the hills, it's been a year of ups and downs.

Since April, we've managed to run a full programme of walks, although we've had to limit the number of attendees in light of COVID-19 – about 18 walks in total. My thanks, as always, to Hilary Davies for organising them, as our Programme Secretary, and to all the walk leaders for your efforts. I'm sure all those who have come on them have enjoyed them.

We were very lucky that the holiday to Glaramara, in the Lake District, was able to go ahead. The restrictions on holidays were lifted on 17th May, the very day on which the holiday had been booked to start almost a year before. The group covered local mountain tops and a number of valley walks in good weather, only spoiled by rain on the last day.

I'm sure everyone will join me in thanking Anne Furlong for organising the holiday. Anne has already booked our holidays for 2022 and 2023 and you can read more about them in her report.

As you know, we had to cancel our Anniversary celebrations last October and have not yet organised an alternative, as we've been waiting for the COVID pandemic to stabilise before bringing everyone together in a large group. We'd like your inputs at the AGM on what you would like us to organise – one current suggestion is for a lunchtime meal, with a short walk before it for those who want one.

We did post a lot of photographs of early walks on the website – have a look at them if you haven't done so already.

The Bridgnorth Rights of Way Association, which we support, continued to clear paths in the parish during the pandemic, with some members adopting a group of paths and keeping them clear. The Association carried out its first full working group in September, adding ballast to the steps we built up the slope behind Daniels Mill a few years ago. I also chair the group and have been doing all of the administration since it was founded in 2017. With some regret, for a number of reasons, I've had to recommend to the BROWA committee that we should wind up the association, and this will be considered at the Association's AGM this month.

Returning to the club, I'd like to thank everyone on the committee for their work and contributions. Caroline Haigh has taken on the role of Secretary and Tim Day and Dave Jones have continued as Treasurer and Vice Chairman. I've already covered Hilary's and Anne's work on the walks programme and our holidays. Martin Howitt, Ali Sacre and Marion Law have given their inputs and provided guidance. Finally, we co-opted Karen Crawford onto the committee, to help us with a trial Facebook group.

Over the last year, we've had more members participating on the committee, widening our thinking. Do stand to join the committee if you would be willing to assist. We meet about four times a year and would welcome your ideas.

Clive Dyson
Chairman - November 2021

BRIDGNORTH AND DISTRICT WALKING CLUB -TREASURER'S REPORT 31ST OCTOBER 2021

A copy of the Summary Accounts for the Club for 2020/21 is shown on the next page.
We had 45 paid up members this year which is 2 less than last year.

Because of reduced expenditure this year reflecting the general level of our activities during the pandemic the General Account balance has increased by £167.82 to £839.29. We have also benefited from a £30.00 payment from RWH Travel (Ramblers) as members have nominated us under the Walking Partnership when they have booked their holidays.

The Holiday Account has a balance of £812.44 which is accounted for by £210.00 in relation to next year's Pembrokeshire holiday and £602.44 to cover contingencies and other future holiday expenses.

Your Committee has considered the overall position with regard to the General Account which currently is at a relatively healthy level together with the potential for reduced income and increased expenditure on general items including insurance and bank charges. The recommendation is to maintain the annual subscription at £12 for 2022/23. The subscription for 2021/22 was approved as £12 at last year's AGM.

The detailed Accounts will be subject to examination by Keith Fradgley, Independent Examiner, hopefully before the AGM.

Tim Day
Treasurer

BRIDGNORTH & DISTRICT WALKING CLUB				
SUMMARY ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDING 31ST OCTOBER 2021				
RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS		
	£		£	£
Annual Subscription - 45 members	540.00	AGM Expenses		
RWH Travel - Member Nominated Income	30.00	Club Insurance - Howden		216.60
		Website Costs		58.00
Net Receipts - Holidays Account	200.00	Ramblers Association Subscription		65.50
		General Administrative and Other Expenses		62.08
TOTAL RECEIPTS	770.00	TOTAL PAYMENTS		402.18
		OPENING BALANCE 31ST OCTOBER 2020		1283.91
		Plus Total Receipts		770.00
				2053.91
		Less Total Payments		402.18
				1651.73
		CLOSING BALANCE 31ST OCTOBER 2021		1651.73
		represented by		
		Bank Balance		1634.77
		Cash		16.96
		ANALYSIS OF BALANCE AT 31ST OCTOBER 2021		1651.73
		General Account		839.29
		Holidays Account		
		Deposits - Future Holidays	210.00	
		Contingency & Expenses Fund	602.44	812.44
				1651.73

BWC Programme Secretary Report for the AGM Nov 2021

Walks finally restarted again, after the last COVID lockdown, on Sunday 11th April, with a walk from Cleobury. It was great to see everyone again. Since then, we've run a complete programme of walks, although we have limited the number of attendees. I have attached the usual spreadsheet of statistics for these walks. I thank the 13 leaders who have provided a total of 22 walks this year. It is noticeable that our turnouts are lower than usual but this is due to members being cautious during the Covid pandemic.

We were also very lucky in being able to run our holiday to Glaramara, in the Lake District, starting on the very first day that holidays were allowed. The weather was excellent for two days allowing us to summit the mountains and have clear views. Half the holiday group thoroughly enjoyed the lower hill walks around Borrowdale.

This year, we have introduced a system to organise mountain walks on mid-week days and to keep the walk date flexible to meet with weather conditions. We will continue with this system next year.

Lastly, I take this opportunity to thank Clive for taking over my Programme Secretary duties during a difficult period of my life.

Hilary Davies

2020/21	Venue	Grade	Miles	Leader	Weather	Total Walkers	Short only
From Sun 01 Nov 2020 to end of Mar 2021 - All walks cancelled due to Covid-19 Regulations							
Sun 11 Apr	Cleobury Country	C+	7.5	Marion & Eileen	Fine	11	2
Sun 25 Apr	Bluebell walk	C+	7.0	Clive & Kate	Fine	15	
Sun 09 May	Wenlock Edge	C+	9.0	Dave Evans		15	
Tue 25 May	Great Gable	A	7.0	Pam Day	Fine & clear	9	
Tue 25 May	Castle Craggs	C+	7.0	Hilary	Fine & clear	8	1
Wed 26 May	Robinson and Dale Head	A	7.5	Pam & Eileen	Fine & clear	8	
Wed 26 May	Watendlath	B	6.5	Dave Jones	Fine & clear	7	2
Thu 27 May	Castle Craggs	C+	7.0	Marion	Rain all day	9	
Sun 30 May	Wart Hill Wander	C+	8.5	Hilary	Fine	11	
Sun 13 Jun	Caer Caradoc	B+	8.0	Martin Howitt	Very hot	7	
Sun 27 Jun	Stiperstones	B	9.0	Gill Steed	Fine	9	2
Sun 11 Jul	Brown Clee & Nordy Bank	B	9.0	Pam Day & Eileen	Fine	10	2
Sun 25 Jul	Long Mynd & Gogbatch	C+	7.5	Dot Cox & Gill	Fine	16	
Tue 03 Aug	Cnicht and Moelwyn Mawr	A	8.5	Pam Day		5	
Sun 08 Aug	Offa's Dyke, south of Knighton	B+	11.0	Clive & Kate	Drizzle then fine	11	
Sun 29 Aug	Wintles from Bishops Castle	C+	7.0	Karen Crawford	Fine	13	4
Sun 12 Sep	Shepherd's Rock from Bridges	C+/B	8.0	Anne Furlong	Fine	10	
Thu 23 Sep	Bury Ditches from Clun	B	10.0	Gill & Marion	Fine	16	8
Sun 26 Sep	Bringewood Chase	C+	7.0	Gill & Eileen	Fine	12	2
Sun 10 Oct	Beeston Castle & sandstone trail	C/C+	9.0	Martin Howitt	Fine	6	
Sun 24 Oct	Hope valley	C+	7.0	Marion Law	Showers then fine	13	
Wed 27 Oct	Pen Y Fan mountain	A		Clive Dyson	Cancelled -too windy		
Wed 27 Oct	Ragleth and Caer Caradoc	B		Clive Dyson	Windy but dry		
Sun 31 Oct	The Lawley	B	7.0	Martin Howitt	Shower & windy	9	
			Total miles	140.0		Total walkers	189.0
			Number of Walks	17.0		Number of Walks	17.0
			Average miles	8.2		Average walkers	11.1
			Total miles including breaks	175.0		Total walkers incl breaks	230.0
			Number of Walks	22.0		Number of Walks	22.0
			Average miles including breaks	8.0		Average walkers incl breaks	10.5

Bridgnorth Walking Club Holiday Report for AGM November 2021

An excellent residential 4 night walking holiday based at Glaramara in Borrowdale took place on the first day the hotel was able to open in May. We had 2 good mountain walking days with alternative walks for those who wanted something not quite so challenging. Our last day was very wet but some of us still chose to walk at a lower level. Hilary and Pam took the lead in looking after us on all of our walks. The hotel was excellent and very good value. We have re-booked the same hotel for May 15th 2023. We have also booked our next walking holiday at the Gwbert hotel for 4 nights from September 12th 2022. 21 club members have reserved a place and we will be walking on the Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire coast.

Anne Furlong

REPORT OF RAMBLERS SHROPSHIRE AREA COUNCIL MEETINGS 2020 TO 2021

The Area Ramblers meetings held in November, February and May were all by Zoom. September 2021's meeting was the first face to face of the year. The next AGM will be held on Saturday 22nd January 2022 hosted by the Oswestry group.

Will Tandy has been an excellent figurehead for the Area during the past year. He has encouraged interaction between groups, focused on attracting more young people to join the Ramblers and increased the Area's media presence even further. In these aims he was supported by the Area Publicity Officer who worked hard and successfully to encourage more interaction between groups including affiliated ones like Bridgnorth and to encourage groups to post photographs and news on Facebook. Unfortunately, the position is now vacant. Recently Will organized a successful informal 'Meet and Chat' session for representatives of groups (anyone who wanted to go along) with a morning walk and afternoon session to discuss and share ideas.

Membership for the Shropshire Area has remained stable with a slight increase; some groups have seen a slight decline in numbers and others an increase, particularly Telford and East Shropshire who have gained 28 new members. Several groups have reported that some older members are not renewing their membership but in the Shrewsbury area these have been replaced by younger members.

Area Council continues to monitor footpaths in the county and actively tries to ensure that **Rights of Way** are maintained. At Area meetings groups report on ROWs issues in their own area, what actions have been taken, those that are ongoing and where Shropshire and Telford councils have been involved and how. Particular issues in the last year have been ensuring Rights of Way are respected at the big housing development at the former power station site at Ironbridge; the North West Relief Road and most recently, in Telford, plans for the installation of solar panels at New Works Lane close to the Wrekin. T&W council planning committee has recently unanimously refused this application on environmental grounds. The TES footpath secretary has been in discussion with Telford Council regarding the Telford Definitive map and with central office regarding the missing Telford ROWs Improvement plan. Marion Law and Trevor Allison (the Area Environment Protection Volunteer) have also been instrumental in investigating and responding, where appropriate, to problems throughout Telford and Shropshire. Gill Steed now takes responsibility for reporting ROW work to Area.

The Walking Environment Protection Volunteer for the Shropshire Area continues to be involved in trawling the Shropshire definitive map '**Lost Ways**', at present he has identified just over 60 items not all of these are useful. He considers that 'anomalies' (generally where a ROW does not connect to the Highway network at one end), are either registered as claims before the current cut off date of 2026 or acknowledged by the ROW department as items to be considered in their general duty to keep the Definitive map correct and up to date. It is hoped that footpath connectivity in Shropshire will be improved. Jack Cornish was appointed the Ramblers Programme Manager for 'Don't Lose Your Way' and was the speaker at the Area AGM in January. He also attended the Area meeting in May to give an update on progress and answer questions. He explained that the DLYW is externally funded and is a complex and challenging project. It is hoped that a plan will be produced to help volunteers prioritise paths which are of the most benefit to the ROW.

Anne Furlong October 2021