

# Bridgnorth and District Walking Club

## Chairman's Report – 2022 AGM

It's great that we've managed a full programme of walks this year, for the first time since the pandemic. I hope that you've all enjoyed the walks and being able to meet with friends again. My thanks to our Walk Programme Secretary, Hilary Davies, for diligently ensuring we have a varied programme and to all our walk leaders, without who's efforts we would not have a club.

We've started running joint, 10-mile plus, walks with the Wrekin Mountaineering Club, which occur at short notice on (rather random) Thursdays. Let me know if you want to be added to the distribution list, which will also be used for any short-notice mountain walks arranged by the club.

The lull in the pandemic let us hold, at last, a dinner at the Old Vicarage Hotel in Worfield, to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club. This was well attended, with about 30 current and past members joining us. The committee would like to thank Kate Dyson for organising a most enjoyable evening.

Anne Furlong has again arranged our annual holiday. This year it was to Gwbert, near Cardigan, and was a great success. We used some of our holiday fund to cover the cost of coach hire to give access to some marvellous coastal walks. Anne has already booked a return holiday to Glaramara, in the Lake District, for next May and you can read more about the holidays in her report. Thanks to Anne for all her work taking club members to such memorable locations.

As I mentioned in the latest newsletter, we are trying to attract new members. Karen Crawford has set up both public and members-only Facebook groups, which have increased the visibility of the club on social media. We've had a few new members join due to this and other publicity. Please consider how you can spread the word to your contacts and friends.

On more administrative matters, walk leaders already incidentally collect members' phone numbers and email addresses when they arrange walks. There will be a discussion and vote at the AGM on how to formalise this in the constitution. We will also discuss what contact details should be shared with other members when a walk is being arranged. Our aim is to make it easier to arrange walks, for members to be able to arrange car sharing, and to enhance safety during walks.

Also, remember that we have increased the voluntary contribution that we make for car sharing to 30p/mile, in light of the continually increasing cost of running cars.

I'd like to thank other members of the committee for their work and contributions. Caroline Haigh and Tim Day have continued as Secretary and Treasurer. Pam Day, as Vice Chair, has helped me with a number of issues, especially when I've been away, and Ali Sacre has represented members on the committee.

We are looking for someone to take over as Walk Programme Secretary in the next year or so, and for more people to arrange holidays and meets for the club. Please consider standing for election to the committee or arranging a holiday. Our club can only survive if most of its members contribute over time.

Clive Dyson  
Chairman - November 2022

## **BWC Programme Secretary Report for the AGM Nov 2022**

I'm delighted to report that after two years of Covid restrictions, we have scheduled a whole year of 29 walks. Only 4 walks were cancelled mostly due to wet weather but one due to hot weather – a sign of things to come. The average length of the walks is over 8 miles. The turnouts are very encouraging with two walks topping 20 walkers.

Thank-you to all the leaders for a variety of walks. We have appreciated the concern of some members to fully share cars in addition to the rise in fuel costs, so most of our walks have been based in Shropshire, and the contribution to driver's fuel costs is increased to 30p per mile. We have suggested an appropriate car park in Bridgnorth where those who wish to share transport may make arrangements to do so. This may also be useful to newer members of the club.

We continue to provide an alternative slower walk where a mountain walk is scheduled on Sunday. We are trialling an opportunity for strenuous walks to be arranged at short notice mid-week. These walks are combined with members of the Wrekin Mountaineering Club. We have supported The Shropshire Way Festival in September with a walk on the slopes of Clee Hill.

We held a very successful holiday in Cardigan for 19 members. We were very lucky to have three days of fine weather to walk the beautiful coasts of Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire.

I do enjoy being the Programme Secretary. It's an interesting part of club-life, which I recommend to anyone else wishing to take it on. I'd like to thank Clive for stepping in to cover my duties whilst I was away on holiday.

Hilary Davies

## **BRIDGNORTH AND DISTRICT WALKING CLUB -TREASURER'S REPORT 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2022**

A copy of the Summary Accounts for the Club for 2021/22 is shown on the next page.

We had 43 full members at the end of this year plus 2 honorary members and 5 longstanding social members.

The General Account balance fell from £ 839.29 at the beginning of 2021/22 to £636.64 on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022. This is mainly due to the one-off expenditure on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration which was in effect partly offset by additional income to the Club following the winding up of Bridgnorth ROWA.

The Holiday Account has a balance of £510.44 which represents the Contingency & Expenses Fund

Your Committee has considered the overall position with regard to the General Account which although currently is at a relatively healthy level there is the potential for reduced income from subscriptions and increased expenditure on general items including insurance. In the current year expenditure on continuing items exceeded subscription income by nearly £100. The recommendation is to increase the annual subscription to £15 for 2023/24. The subscription for 2022/23 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 2022**

RECEIPTS	£	PAYMENTS	£	£
Annual Subscriptions	520.00	AGM Expenses		34.00
RWH Travel - Member Nominated Income		Club Insurance - Howden		246.34
Bridgnorth ROWA - winding up	175.58	Website Costs		94.00
		Ramblers Association Subscription		65.50
		Net Cost -50th Anniversary Celebration		307.00
		Bank Charges		57.40
		General Administrative and Other Expenses		93.99
		Net Expenditure - Holidays Account		302.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<u>695.58</u>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<u>1200.23</u>
		<b>OPENING BALANCE 1ST NOVEMBER 2021</b>		1651.73
		Plus Total Receipts		695.58
				<u>2347.31</u>
		Less Total Payments		1200.23
		<b>CLOSING BALANCE 31ST OCTOBER 2022</b>		<u>1147.08</u>
		represented by		
		Bank Balance		905.62
		Cash		241.46
		<b>ANALYSIS OF BALANCE AT 31ST OCTOBER 2022</b>		<u>1147.08</u>
		General Account		636.64
		Holidays Account		
		Deposits - Future Holidays		
		Contingency & Expenses Fund	<u>510.44</u>	510.44
				<u>1147.08</u>

**Bridgnorth Walking Club**  
**Holidays report for AGM November 2022**

**Holiday at Gwbert, September 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>**

This was very successful. 19 of us enjoyed good accommodation, plenty of food, lovely views from the hotel and 3 lovely walks on the Pembrokeshire, Cardigan and Ceridigion coastal paths. We saw seals including a baby, plenty of seabirds and amazing rock formations. Some of the paths were challenging and tricky so on one day some of the group enjoyed sight seeing and sea swimming instead of the walk, so something for everyone! Our transport by coach on two days and service bus on one day all worked well. The coach company were excellent. Thank you to our leaders Gill and Hilary.

**Glaramara May 15<sup>th</sup> 2023**

At present 20 club members have booked for our 4-night holiday here. The non-returnable deposit is due in January.

**Future holidays.**

I have organised most of our holidays for at least 6 years and I think is time for someone else to take responsibility for 2024. I am happy to help or give advice if needed. Planning would need to begin early in 2023 if past experience is anything to go by

Anne 28.10. 22

## **Report of Ramblers Shropshire Area Council Meetings Sept 2021 to Sept 2022 For BWC AGM November 2022** Anne Furlong BWC Area representative

I attended the Area council meetings held in November, February, and May. These are always interesting and give a good overview of particular issues with ROWs, planning and also how individual groups are dealing with challenges particular to their group such as: attracting new younger members and the difficulties of recruiting walk leaders and committee members.

At the AGM meeting in January 2022 Will Tandy was elected as Area Chair with Anne Suffolk as Vice Chair. Secretary Gillian Steed stood down but agreed to continue in post until a replacement was found.

The next AGM will be held on Saturday January 21<sup>st</sup> 2023 at 2 pm and is being hosted by the Oswestry group. There will be a 4 mile walk in the morning. All Ramblers members and affiliated groups are welcome to attend.

**Rights of Way:** Area Council continues to monitor footpaths in the county and actively tries to ensure that Rights of Way are maintained. At the Area meetings groups report on ROWs issues in their own area and what actions have been taken.

**Planning issues:** Our Walking Environment Officer monitors, actions and reports on planning issues that can impact on ROWs. He reported, at the September meeting, for example, that there are proposals for Solar Farms all over Shropshire. Ramblers' guidance and policy states that there should be no Solar Farms in protected areas.

Trevor also continues to update the Ramblers' **Don't Lose Your Way map** by removing low priority footpaths and seeking to claim ones that are beneficial to the footpath network.

Shropshire Area membership, as reported in February 2022, was stable overall with an increase in Shrewsbury. There had been an increase in non - assigned members to the Shropshire Area.

Our chair Will works hard to try and attract more Ramblers members to attend the Area Meetings which are held at the Wildlife Centre opposite the Abbey. He has introduced 'meet and greet' sessions and also, before our last meeting in September, we had a very nice short walk around parts of the river which Gill and Marion planned and led.