

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024

| Committee Members in Attendance   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Chair (DC)                        | Membership Secretary (DM)       |
| Secretary (BH)                    | First Aid Coordinator (DH)      |
| Webmaster (MJ)                    | Social Secretary (SG)           |
| Footpath Officer (JT)             | Walks Co-ordinator (GA)         |
| Apologies Received                |                                 |
| Treasurer (RP)                    | Publicity Officer (AS)          |
| NE Lancashire Area Treasurer (HA) | Rossendale Ramblers Member (RR) |
| Rossendale Rambler Member (JA)    |                                 |

1. Apologies received as recorded above.
2. **Conduct of Meeting** – The Secretary advised that the meeting would follow the same format as previous years insofar as, with the exception of the Chairman's report, all reports are published on the group website in advance of the AGM for members to raise any matters with the Secretary. No matters were raised.
3. **Minutes of Previous Year's AGM** – The Secretary advised that the previous year's minutes had been re-published on the group website in advance of the AGM for members to raise any matters with the Secretary. No matters were raised.
4. **Chairman's Welcome & Report** – The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Below is a summary of his presentation, the full report can be found on the group website.
  - **2024 Walking Programme** – 130 walks, 129 individual walkers participated.
    - New Year Walk 7<sup>th</sup> January. 25 attended, followed by a meal @ Royal Arms, Tockhole
    - Wednesday Walks – 56
    - Sunday Walks – 45
    - Linear Walks – 7
    - Pub walks – 22
  - **Annual Ramblers Holiday** at HF Dolserau Hall, Dolgellau, Snowdonia. 24 walkers enjoyed 5 days of excellent walks, quizzes and the 1<sup>st</sup> appearance of the Rocky Ramblers. Thanks again to Jean & Judy for their excellent organisation, Mark for the quizzes and the walk leaders Jean, Judy, Mark, Phil & Gill.
  - **The Annual Challenge Walk** covered the West Craven Way led by John & Judy. 11 walkers completed 24 miles, 2 walkers joined at Thornton in Craven and completed 14 miles (plus 3 walked from Salterforth). Another walker joined at Horton for 8 miles (bringing water to top up everyone's bottles). 2 joined at Bracewell to walk the last 6 miles. Impressive stats, 24.26 miles, 3629ft ascent, 2.2 mph.

- **Round The Hills** – Thanks to Judy, Diana, Graeme & David H for the route recce and waymarking this walk on behalf of Rossendale Rotary. Also thanks to RR Pathway Fixers for repairing stiles and gates. Bernie led the group of 9 Rossendale Ramblers and two guests who took part in the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Rossendale Round the Hills Walk, together with another 730 walkers.
- **Walk Leaders** – The unsung heroes. RR have seen great success in recruiting and retaining Walk Leaders, however at present we have 23, lost 12, gained 1 new leader in 2024.
- **Rossendale Ramblers Pathway Fixers/Clearance** – In 2024, 17 Pathway Fixers have fixed/replaced 9 stiles and 2 ladder stiles. We have also replaced one broken stile and fencing with a gate. In addition, a team coordinates the removal of pathway vegetation including fallen branches blocking pathways. To date this year 5 have been cleared. We have invested in an additional brush cutter, battery powered and lighter than our existing 2 stroke multi-tool.
- **Training** – The Ramblers web site is a great resource of information for Walk Leadership online training and Pathway Maintenance
- **Membership** – 178 members as of October 2024. 37 new members, 27 members have resigned/lapsed, 2 have moved to another area.
- **Publicity** - Rossendale Ramblers enjoy publicity via their web site, FB page, weekly exposure in the Rossendale Free Press and Ramblers Walk magazine.
- **2025 Objectives**
  - First Aid training will commence in January 2025
  - Provide First Aid kits now provided as required.
  - Provide ICE (IN CASE OF EMERGENCY) tokens for all members.

The Chairman concluded his report by thanking the Rossendale Ramblers Committee.

5. **Treasurer's Finance Report** – The Secretary presented the financial report for 2023/2024 on behalf of the Treasurer, giving an overview of the general income and expenditure. Approval of the report was requested from the meeting and was unanimous. The Secretary confirmed the appointment of the usual independent auditor which was also approved.
6. **Election of Officers** – The Secretary advised that all committee members were happy to continue in their roles for a further year. The re-appointment of the committee was confirmed by the meeting.
7. **Any Other Business** – No AOB was raised.
8. **Conclusion of the meeting** recorded at 20:30. There were 20 members in attendance.

9. **Refreshments/Raffle** – Members enjoyed the refreshments, and all raffle prizes were distributed. The raffle raised £120 which is to be donated to the Northwest Air Ambulance.
10. **Guest Speaker – The Northwest Air Ambulance** delivered a most informative insight into the charity and the work that it does.