

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 6th February 2024

The Red Gate Inn, Mansfield

Present:

Stephen Bramley, Julie Bailey, Jim Baker, Julie Casey, Helen Cornwell, Pete Dring, Jackie Evans, Steve Evans, Denise Garley, Martyn Gill, Marie-Louise Hall, Julie Lawson, Eileen Matthews, Robert Matthews, Dave Moore, Stephen Price, Jan Rek, Yvonne Rek, David Revuelta, Sue Rick, Brian Tuffnell, Kieth Walker, Joy Walker, Val Woolley

Apologies:

Alex Ellis, Terri Lawton, Russ Osborne, Helen Ward

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting on 23rd October 2023 we approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Julie Casey, seconded by Denise Garley.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

New Officers

Sue introduced our new officers to the meeting and thanked them for taking up their positions. They are Martyn Gill as Treasurer, Terri Lawton as Membership Secretary and Dave Moore as Footpaths Secretary

Officer Reports

Chair

We had a successful A.G.M. in November which was well supported by the group members. Thanks to Yvonne for finding the venue & dealing with the booking. Thanks to everyone who helped on the day & for the excellent fuddle. We managed to get 3 new volunteers on the committee - Terri Lawton who has taken over as Membership Secretary & Martyn Gill who has taken over as Treasurer. David Moore has been elected as Footpath Secretary. Brian Tuffnell has also been officially voted in as Webmaster although he has been doing the role for quite some time. Thanks to Chris Taylor the outgoing Webmaster. An afternoon tea voucher was presented to Richard Lord our outgoing Treasurer, with many thanks for his help in the handover.

The Ravenshead & Hucknall group members who were put into Mansfield & Sherwood erroneously have now been transferred to Nottingham area without a group, it only took 8 months to rectify. Another great evening at the Christmas party was enjoyed by all & I'm sorry to have missed the Burn's Night Supper sounds like a good time was had by all.

Chris Thompson the Tourism & Heritage Officer has asked if any of you would like to put any of your walks on the Notts Guided walks a brochure of which comes out in March.

Sue Rick

Finance

Martyn explained that he had only just taken over the role of Treasurer and is still learning the role. All accounts are now up to date.

Footpaths

Sue explained that Dave is not from the area and so needs some help when checking footpath issues. Sue has been with David to check one issue in Mansfield Woodhouse that was raised by a member of the public.

1. Ken Whetton from Rotherham Metro brought an issue with a path near Assarts Farm in Market Warsop. The path has been put back across the field to go under the bridge. I will go back and check that it is still there.
2. Walking from the Carrs into Warsop Vale when you go under the bridge the footpath to the left comes to a new housing estate which has been fenced off. I will check if this path will be re-instated.
3. Sue and I went to have a look at a pathway in Pleasley Vale that has been fenced off. The path across the field was well used but we could not find an entrance to the path at the bottom of the field. Will investigate this further.
4. I have got a copy of footpath/bridleway amendments around Warsop and Cuckney. I am trying to find out when these will be carried out.

Dave Moore

Litter Pickers

Litter picking is still going well with our monthly meetups and over the year we have collected over 100 bags of litter, car parts and several large objects. It has taken three picks to do The Mansfield Way. Along the Archaeological Way Martyn and Julie found a large amount of fly tipping rubbish with names and addresses noted and passed to Sharon Hartshorn in the hopes of getting a prosecution which makes what we do as a team very worthwhile. Hoping to do the areas near Newstead village and the Carrs and many more throughout the year. Thank you to my steady litter pickers. Another group in the Notts Area is looking to follow in our footsteps and create a litter picking team and are seeking our advice.

Some of the meeting asked if the litter picking could be done on another day than Friday so that they are able to help. Denise said there was no reason why litter picking could not be done on another day if someone is willing to organise this and collect the equipment from Alex.

Membership

Terri reported that at present we have 157 members, of which 7 are new members and 2 that have been reinstated.

Publicity

No report received.

Social Events

Looking back over the past events since the last meeting.

Sun 22 Oct Papplewick Pumping Station - 1940's Day 32 of us had an enjoyable day. I led a 4-mile easy walk/march prior to the visit. Lots to see and some of us went into the Victorian Underground Reservoir.

Fri 22 Dec Christmas Party at The Venue, Rainworth. 40 of us had a good time at the disco with our own food and lots of raffle prizes. Thanks to Sue and Denise for sorting this.

Thurs 25 Jan Burns Night at Patchills Centre. Very successful event. Thanks to Steve for organising this and Alex for her massive Scottish input. The food and venue were excellent. And we had some nice comments on their Facebook page. Has anyone seen Steve's missing red table runner?

Sat 3 Feb Robin Hood Pantomime at Palace Theatre by Mansfield Hospital Troupe – 30 went.

Future Events

Thurs 29 Feb Behind the scenes at Amazon Distribution Centre, East Midlands Airport at 12:00 pm. Fully booked with 12. Possibly a 6 mile walk afterwards.

Tues 5 Mar Churt Mine Trip, Near Bakewell 7:00 pm 6 places plus extras if you have your own helmet and lamp.

Thurs 7 Mar Kinky Boots Play by Mansfield Operatic Society at Palace Theatre – 17 going.

Mon 25- Fri 29 March Tenby Coach Holiday – 49 so far but room for 4 more in double or twin rooms. Sorry no single occupancy rooms. Need to know if you have any dietary requirements.

Sat 27 April Barn/Ceilidh Dance at Loundsley Community Centre. Chesterfield. Tickets £9.00 16-seater minibus booked but also need 3 cars. 29 booked. We will also be celebrating my Retirement and 65th Birthday.

Thurs 30 – Sat 1 June Pendle Hill – 13 going so far booked in The Barley Mow and Pendle Inn. If anyone else wants to join us, let me know.

Can I please stress again how important it is that you remember to put the correct reference on and your name when you make any payments at send me a text. Without this it causes a lot of time and effort for me, Martyn and Brian in sorting out what money needs to be allocated to whom and to which event. Also, if you pay for other people, please add their names to the reference. This saves me hassling you for money when you have already paid. I also apologise for the few mistakes I have made recently but hope you appreciate that it was unintentional. If anyone else wants a go at keeping track of your all activities, please feel free to step forward.

Future Ideas

Disc Golf King George V Playing fields - £4. Game last 90 minutes to 2 hours

4 people per team. 5 teams so far. - Linda Kennedy sorting. Need to arrange a new date.

Chesterfield Canal Narrowboat Trip £35 for 7 hours - 6 locks Carolgate Bridge (Aldi) heading west towards Retford. Bring your own picnic and have a go at steering and operating locks under supervision.

3 Yorkshire Peaks over a weekend - Steve Dobbs offered to lead the walks.

Greyhound Racing - Nothing arranged yet.

Other ideas

Ecton Mine Trip, Barley Mow, Quiz Night, Bat Walk, Observatory Visit, Newark Civil War Centre, Sunrise/Sunset Walk, Sound Bath/Reki, Newstead Abbey, Beamish Museum, Summer/Winter Solstice Walk, Night Walk, Creswell Craggs Cave Tour, Workhouse Visit, Mini weekend cruise to Amsterdam - House of Anne Frank, Games Day, Pétanque, Weekends Away, Day Trips, Coach Holidays. Long distance holidays. All suggestions and help welcome.

Thanks again for all your support and prompt payment. Looking forward to another varied and fun filled social year in between the excellent walks.

Walks

We have a few walks planned at present, but we need more to fill our programme. Although we continue to put on a walk every Sunday these tend to be submitted close to the date. Brian welcomed new leaders Billie Jo Arnold, Karen Kirkham, Mag Foster and Martyn Gill. Billie is leading a local easy walk once a month on a Saturday. Karen is leading local easy midweek walks. A sheet was circulated for leaders to record any walks they are willing to lead. He again reminded the meeting that although Sunday is our main walking day, leaders are welcome to lead a walk on any day and that these would be welcomed by some members who are unable to attend our Sunday walks. Thanks to all our leaders for their continued support in leading our group walks.

Communication

Brian explained the issues presented by using personal email addresses for official Ramblers communications when new volunteers take on committee roles such as Martyn taking over from Richard. Martyn now does not have access to historical information. This was also a problem following the death of Alex Staniforth. The Ramblers have their own email system called Stackmail and we should be using addresses on this system for key committee positions. These are the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Social Secretary, Footpaths and Publicity. The Chair and Secretary accounts have been in use for quite a while as has a general enquiries account. Brian will distribute instructions to the relevant officers.

Warsop Carnival

Our stall at last year's carnival was well attended and generated a lot of interest. Sue wanted to know if people would be willing and able to help if we took a stall again this year. Several people offered to help and so Sue will book a place for us at this year's carnival.

Training Courses

Sue wanted to know if map reading and first aid courses would be of interest to anyone. Many did indeed want some training. Sue will now look at venue and date options and circulate further information as when she is able to do so. Gedling group are looking to share any training. Merv Thomas offered to help with map reading/walk leader training.

Dave Moore said that there are Map Reading Made Easy sessions at Worksop library on Tuesdays 5th – 26th March. These cost £18 per session.

A.O.B

There were no other items raised at the meeting.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 7th May 2024 at The Red Gate Inn.

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Brian Tuffnell  
Group Secretary, Mansfield & Sherwood Group

E&OE