

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF RAMBLERS TRAFFORD GROUP (RTG)

Wednesday 6th November 2024 at 19:00 hours via Zoom video conferencing.

Present;

Committee members - Richard Longbottom (Chair), Kath Thorley, Rosie Hurley, Phill Connolly, Frances Bennett, Jan Moore (Secretary)

Members - Angela Hilton, Judith Hunter, Malcolm Hunter, John Hurley, Jacqui Jones, Jacqui Knowles, Tony Reynolds, Kath Smith

Apologies: Nigel Gartside

Minutes of the AGM for the year ended 30 September 2023

Minutes from the AGM held on Wednesday 22 November 2023 were circulated and accepted as a true record.

NB. Written reports from all committee members are available to view on the RTG web site at <https://www.ramblers-trafford.co.uk/contacts/committee.html>

Chairman's report for the year ended 30 September 2024

Richard paid tribute to June Mabon's work as Footpath Officer. He reported on the groups walking successes over the year which included 5 days in Keswick with 3 walks offered on three of the days, an overnigher in Grassington, evening walks and the high attendance on Strolls. He paid special thanks to the RTG walk leaders.

Presentation of the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2024

Frances confirmed the accounts have been audited and approved. The start of year balance was £1681.33; the end of year balance £1509.97. The balance remains high due to there being no footpath expenditure. A credit of £80 was received from Ramblers Holidays as commission paid when RTG members had booked holidays with them. Frances asked that members be encouraged to continue booking as RTG members.

Officers Reports:

Walks co-ordinator: Rosie reported 19 walk leaders had led 82 walks and thanked the walk leaders for all their support. The number of walks was higher than the previous year, though the number of ad hoc walks has fallen. Attendances on weekdays walks were lower than in the previous year but higher when Saturday, evening, Lake District and Yorkshire Dales walks are included. Saturday walks have been discontinued due to lack of demand, but evening walks were popular and will be continued in summer 2025. As always, it would be helpful to have more walk leaders. The online Ramblers' modules which new leaders have to complete are helpful and not too onerous. Rosie concluded with reference to the Strollers report from Sheila Kabbani. Strolls continue to be very well attended. Richard paid a vote of thanks to Rosie for providing statistics, adding they provide much food for future thought.

Membership secretary: Kath reported that as of 6th November, there were 299 full and 3 affiliate members. There have been a number of people leaving or joining RTG during the year, but the total membership has increased by 14 from 285 last year. All communication has been via email with just 17 members for whom we have no email address at all. Kath senses the 17 may be older members who may simply wish to support Ramblers as a charity. There are a few glitches e.g. three members' email addresses constantly result in "bounce back" messages but overall, the membership database is now in reasonable shape.

Communications and Publicity Officer: Phill stated that the numbers following RTG via Facebook continue to grow with several being international. 67% are women. In response to a question from the chair, Phill didn't have any age-related figures but felt he should be able to obtain these. There have not been any merchandise sales in the past year but Phill hopes to organise another round of t-shirt sales in the New Year. Comment was passed that Strollers do not feature very much on RTG media. Phill stated that this is because he doesn't get any photographs. Jan felt that Alec and Mike, regular Strollers with an interest in photography, might be willing to send pictures through to Phill.

Action: Jan to contact Alec and Mike and if willing, ask them to contact Phill re submitting photographs.

Secretary: Jan reported that she had attended all but one of the Area meetings in the past year despite earlier misgivings about not having time to get into Manchester on time after a Thursday Walk. Kath Thorley now attends as the second RTG representative and Jacqui Knowles as Area treasurer. Considerable time had been given to providing feedback on the Ramblers new walk leader training. Kath and Rosie had made a significant contribution to this. The GM Ringway is now complete and Frances is a Guardian of Stage 19, Altrincham to Stretford. Frances added that she is involved in setting up a Friends of GM Ringway Group. Jan also commented that fewer people have attended Area Meetings this year, which is disappointing as group reports are so often a source of ideas for developing our own programme. Tom Ross, leader of Trafford MBC, has recently accepted the position of Area President and will be speaking at the Area AGM in November.

Action: Jan to post a reminder to all members via What's App that they may attend the AGM.

The Area report for 2023-4 has recently been published and appears on the RTG web site in the Reports and Minutes section.

Footpath co-ordinator Following the resignation of June Mabon, the post remains vacant.

Nominations for Honorary Officers

Chair: Kath Thorley. Proposed by J. Moore, seconded by R. Hurley

Treasurer: Frances Bennett. Proposed by J. Moore, seconded by R. Hurley

Secretary: Jan Moore. Proposed by K. Thorley, seconded by J. Hurley

Nominations for Committee Members

Walks Co-ordinator: Rosie Hurley. Proposed by P. Connolly, seconded by J. Hunter

Membership Secretary: Kath Smith. Proposed by J. Moore, seconded by K. Thorley

Social & Social Media Secretary: Phill Connolly. Proposed by K. Thorley, seconded by J. Moore. It was agreed that Elaine Connolly would assist Phill in this role.

Nominations for other officers:

Footpath Officer: None received

Auditor: Malcolm Hunter. Proposed by J. Moore, seconded by R. Longbottom

Officer without portfolio: Tony Reynolds. Proposed by K. Thorley, seconded by J. Moore (This is a new role.)

Richard Longbottom agreed to continue as webmaster.

Appointment of representatives to the GMPF Area governing body:

Jan and Kath T to attend, together with Jacqui K as Area Treasurer.

Motions received: None

Being no further business, the meeting closed at 7. 45pm

Chair_____ Date_____