

Mendip Ramblers Officers Report Nov 2011

Chairman's Report
Clive Edney

Mendip Ramblers have once again enjoyed a successful and busy year. Our annual festival centred on Priddy proved to be a huge success with 330 walkers over the three days.

Alongside this members have had opportunities to take part in a variety of holidays and social events all of which have been extremely successful and enjoyable. Thanks to our walk leaders, all of whom do an excellent job, we have run a comprehensive programme of walks throughout the year taking place every Sunday and Thursday.

Walks however would not be possible without our programme co-ordinator. Peggy has now produced several programmes since taking over this crucial role and her excellent work has ensured that we all have accurate information about walks and other events being organised. The arrangement whereby Paula and Alice collect walk details and pass them on to Peggy appears to be working well. So special thanks to this effective team of three.

I would like to record my thanks to our committee members who contribute so much to the successful running of our group with a lot of their work done behind the scenes. I am particularly grateful for the work and support of our Officers. Carol our Treasurer for her meticulous management of the accounts.

Carol has been our Treasurer for the past six years and she has indicated that she does not wish to stand for election again this year. She will be a great loss to our committee having given such excellent service to us in this post over the past six years. Les has continued to do excellent work as our secretary.

Throughout the year he has worked closely with me and the advice he has given me has been much appreciated. Thanks also Mike our Vice Chairman who stood in for me while I was abroad for six weeks and was extremely effective in dealing with a problem that arose with Somerset County Council. I would also

like to say a special thank you to Alice for her organisation of social events. Footpath Officers are key members of our committee and we are fortunate in having two excellent officers in Tony P and Brian. This job entails a lot of hard work behind the scenes and a great deal of what they achieve goes unnoticed by the vast majority of us. Paula has once again done wonders with publicity and with the organisation of the festival. Her contribution to our group has been excellent and sustained over many years. Paula has however indicated that she will stand again for election and if elected this will be her last year as publicity secretary. Finally a thank you to Barbara, Tony D, Mary and Nick for their work and valued contributions at committee meetings.

We have had two meetings with Somerset County Council since the last AGM. Slowly we continue to forge a working relationship with them regarding our Working Party, which is at present undertaking some work regarding the installation of stiles and gates. There is still some way to go with regard to this process but we must ensure that communication channels are well maintained at all levels and we meet from time to time with David Hall, the Portfolio Holder and other Officers to further develop a strong relationship.

I have had the privilege of being your Chairman for the past two years. While I have enjoyed serving in this capacity I do not feel it is appropriate for a Chair to be elected and then hang on to the position until senility sets in. It is important that others in our group are also given the opportunity to serve in this capacity. For this reason I have decided not to seek re-election to the Chair at this time.

Clive Edney

SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT 2011

January was Meal at George at Nettlebridge well attended and enjoyed by all.

May we had an excellent tour of Wells Cathedral with Clive giving a great commentary and a request for a tour on the

ground floor which I am hoping to arrange shortly. This was followed with a meal.

July was disco night, another successful evening, unfortunately same problem not enough support from members YOUR NEVER TO OLD TO DANCE AND ENJOY YOURSELF.

November is 10 Pin Bowling and Chinese after.

Don't forget to book early for January Meal. Menu and date on Website..

Alice Lock November 2011

PUBLICITY REPORT

JAN:

First ad for walking festival to Ed Levy for Somerset Rambler.

Rang Alan Butcher, Priddy Parish Council: He said he wasn't aware of anything else on August Bank Holiday weekend.

First ad to Jenny Walters of Country Walking and Simon Ingram of Trail.

Walks booklets – print 70 – 80. Charge £2.50 ea. Only give free to walk leaders who want them.

Early notification for programmes to: Mendip; S Soms; Sedgemoor; Clevedon; Woodspring; SWAG; Taunton Deane; West Soms

Early notification also to: West Wilts; Norton Radstock; Bath; Bristol; Bristol HF; Brunel; Frome Rights of Way; Severnside; Southwold; N Dorset; Kingswood.

FEB:

Letter to confirm Priddy village hall at a cost of £140.

Ad to Walk Magazine + photo as requested.

Ad to Glastonbury TIC for What's On Somerset (mag).

MAR:

Ad to Somerset Life + photo as requested. Request to Clare Haskins for PPLO contact details. Andy Stevens responded with list and advised some in N Soms, so will try and get names for those.

APRIL:

Email to PPLOs to advise them of festival: Priddy; Shipham; Litton; Wells; Westbury sub Mendip; Rodney Stoke; Cheddar; Wedmore. By telephone, Chewton Mendip. Also, asked for contact for parish mags and if they would put up posters.

Not a lot of response other than Robert (Wedmore) who advised contact details for Wedmore News and Richard St John, Chewton Mendip who advised contact details for Chewton Mendip/Emborough/Litton/Ston Easton mag.

Both happy to put up posters.

Editorial plus photo sent to Mid-Soms Series; Frome & Somerset Standard and The Somerset Guardian; Midsomer Norton, Radstock & District Journal.

Unfortunately missed/didn't receive notification re Get Walking Day 15 May so no walk. Need to flag up these sort of events and co-ordinate with prog co-ordinator.

MAY:

Making contact with parish mags for promotion.

JUNE TO OCTOBER

Editorial plus photo of a group of Mendip Ramblers' holiday in Ireland sent to Somerset Rambler.

Walks programme sent to Mid-Somerset Series also walk details sent to Glastonbury and Street/Meare free paper.

Martin Webb rang about a "Healthy Living" Day being put on by Glastonbury Surgery on Saturday 17 September, 10.00am to 12.00noon and asked if I could take a display table as he would be away. I said I would do my best to go along with some promotional material. When I spoke to the Surgery and discussed this, we agreed that as Ramblers do not organise any walks under 6 miles and the majority of people wanting "health walks" can't manage this distance, it was not worth Ramblers taking part.

Hopefully walk details being listed in Mid-Soms Series and Somerset Standard/Guardian? Glastonbury/Street/Meare free paper are publishing details of Mendip Ramblers walks.

Promotion/publicity for festival appeared to be very successful. Waiting to hear about Doultling Village Hall for 2012. Possibility of building work which would mean will not be available.

Mark Adler of Mendip Times took photos on Monday of festival and I sent a piece of editorial.

Festival editorial and photo sent to local media.

Confirmed entry for Residents' Handbook (STANDBROOK GUIDES LTD, free listing) – Frome; Glastonbury

Paula Ruddock Press and Publicity Officer.

Webmaster Report

The web site has had over 64 thousand hits over the last year averaging around 5,000 per month.

All nine of our previous walking festivals are now on line. Either the full festival booklet, (if one was produced) or individual walks can be downloaded along with a file of the walk you can see on your mapping software or download to your GPSS. You can even take a virtual walk using Google Earth.

The first 5 sections of the Mendip Ring have now been written up and are on our web site. Walking instructions and Margaret Nuth's historical guide can be downloaded along with gpx files that can be used with mapping software and a GPSS. You can even do a virtual walk of the ring on Google Earth.

Les Stather Mendip Group Webmaster

TREASURER'S REPORT 2010-2011

The Ramblers' Association, Mendip Group
Registered Charity 1093377, company limited by guarantee 4458492

Balance sheet 1 October 2010 - 30 September 2011


Opening Balance	3,739.40	Expenditure	9,038.94
Income	7,844.20	Closing balance	2,546.71
Interest	2.05		
	11,583.65		11,583.65

Income and expenditure account for year ending 30 September 2011

2009/2010	Income	2010/2011
300.00	RA Group Entitlement from Area	344.00
100.00	Donations	
2.34	Deposits interest	2.05
429.64	Publication sales	410.20
1689.00	Social Events	880.80
6018.00	Holiday administered	6202.00
	Miscellaneous income	7.20
8538.98		7846.25
	Expenditure	
516.27	Wales Programmes	286.04
5.00	Wales Related	
250.36	Newsletters/publicity	211.86
253.42	Publication/goods costs	113.57
	Campaigns/casework	20.50
10.34	Practical Work	9.98
7.20	Meetings (inc AGM)	24.55
9.40	Admin	17.34
	Other	8.50
4124.20	Holidays Administered	7465.80
1635.55	Social Events	880.80
6811.74		9038.94
	Excess of expenditure over income	-1192.69
1727.24	Excess of income over expenditure	
8538.98		
2,012.16	B/F Balance	3,739.40
3739.40	C/F Balance	2546.71

Auditor's statement

Having carried out procedures in accordance with the Area and Group Audit Guidelines, I consider the Mendip Group accounts to have been properly prepared and to give a true and fair view of the group's finances for the year to 30 September 2011.

Signed  Date 11/06/2011

Report from Footpath Officer (West).

Footpath Officer Annual Report (Mendip West)

Wookey footpath WS16/16. Fence erected across path.

SCC informed and gates have now been installed.

Morrison Planning Application 2011/0006.

Effect on footpaths investigated. Reported situation to SCC.

SCC Footpath Survey. Six paths reviewed, three failed.

Proposed Path Diversion. Sreet. 2011/0562.

Route investigated. No problems envisaged.

Blocked path investigated. Wookey. WS16/18. Reported and path now clear.

West Pennard. Damaged stile at Bradley Stream. Reported to local PPLO who said the Ramblers were going to undertake repair work in the locality.

Footpath Modifications/Diversions

SM14/23 Path diversion, Lydford on Fosse. Site visit 27th May. Alternative will be an improvement on existing route.

WS8/24, Deerleap to Easton, upgrade to bridleway. Site visit 9th August. No problems envisaged. Improvements will be made to access and gateways.

Morrison's planning appeal for Wells supermarket re-submitted. My previous report will be noted.

Path Complaints submitted by Ramblers

West Town, Baltonsborough. Broken stile step and stiles on Butt Moor in poor condition. PPLO had resigned - fault posted in interactive map.

North Wooton. Fenced off footpath. PPLO to be contacted by complainee.

SCC Footpaths Survey

6 paths surveyed. 3 failed or part failed.

Liaison with SCC Warden.

Site meeting with Chris East on 10th August resulting in new gate hanging on WS16/10A, path obstructions cleared on WS16/11 and new Bristol gate at Model Farm, Wookey Hole (instigated by Clive)

Furniture Repairs

The broken stile steps encountered at Burcott Road, Wells on Rambler's walk on 20.10.11 have now been repaired.

Brian Underwood November 2011

Footpath Officer Annual Report (Mendip East)

*FR3/18 obstruction: At Barrow Hill farm.

The land owner has made the path usable and proposed a diversion.

Colin Mansfield is keeping an eye on the situation for me.

Waterlip, Stott's Transport erection of a warehouse site visit 25.01.2011 will not affect footpath

Kilver Street Shepton Mallet (SM21/24 SM21/256 SM21/26)

RW/2/47/260L/SL 08/02/11 10.30am Site meeting with Stuart Lloyd from Somerset Rights of way definitive map team. After discussion this was not proceeded with.

FR9/15 Somerset County Council footpath diversion at Laverton, the reason for diversion is to take the definitive route away from the failing bridges. After a site visit and consulting several local members no objection raised.

*FR 3/18 Footpath diversion in the Parish of Buckland Dinham (approve)

FR 4/33, FR 10/2 Vobster/Coelford site visit way marking and faults reported

SM 1/10 T'other Side the Hill in the Parish of Ashwick site visit and fault reported

WS 3/1 Parish of Chewton Mendip site visit faults reported

CL 19/5 CL 19/3 CL19/10A (No.8) Modification Order in the Parish of Stone Easton upgrading to bridleway. Site visit have no grounds to object.

FR 15/3 FR 15/5 Diversion order in the Parish of Tellisford site visit, the paths have not been used for some time and the alternative routes are in use with no obvious disadvantage (approve)

SM 4/9 Site visit ref planning application for a barn adjacent to the foot path could see no reason to object

Tony Parsons. November 2011.

Report from the Membership Secretary for the year ended 31 October 2011

Report from the Membership Secretary for the year ended 31 October 2011

This year has seen a big improvement in data received from Ramblers HQ with a monthly list summarising numbers into categories and giving details of new members to the Mendip group.

A 'welcome letter' is sent to new members outlining some of the Groups' activities and inviting them to introduce themselves on their first walk. A copy of the current programme is also sent with the letter, so that new members can participate in the many walks and varied social programme as soon as possible.

New members are then put automatically on the Mendip Group mailing list and receive future programmes through the bulk mailing process three times a year.

The number of members has remained reasonably stable although whilst we have welcomed new members, we have also 'lost' existing ones

The annual festival of walks raises the profile of the Mendip Group and ramblers generally, and membership must benefit directly or indirectly from these very successful week-ends.

The total number of members at 1 November 2010 was 352 and at 1 November 2011 is down to 332 (a net loss of 20 members).

Barbara Calverley
Membership Secretary 2010/2011