

HARROGATE RAMBLING CLUB

President's Newsletter

November 2021

After such a long wait, enjoying members' company in the dales, moors, woods, fells and trails again has been quite uplifting, not to mention the effect of the subsequent pubs and tea shops. Only a minority of members are walking currently, and I understand the uncertainty about what this Covid virus is up to, but I hope the vaccinated and boosted slowly gain confidence and feel able to join a club walk. Walk leaders have been the backbone that has enabled the club to get going again, for not only have they led walks, but spotted gaps in the programme and offered to fill them, they deserve the gratitude of all of us that walk. In 1996 the President began his AGM address with a plea for more walk leaders, how little things have changed in the last 25 years! All walk leaders and co-ordinators would be happy to help those who have a little trepidation about leading a walk, please volunteer, Julia's entry form on the website is easy to complete but do ask for help from any walk leader if you are a little uncertain.

The visit to the Devonshire after the AGM in late October took up a little more time than the AGM this year – no bad thing and making for a good social gathering, even if some members took a circuitous route to get there and others never found it. It was a great change as we'd had a Zoom AGM last year and it was lovely to talk to people in person this year. Sad to say there were no new nominations for the committee apart from John Hopkins, who has kindly come forward, so we have a new general secretary. We still have a vacancy on the committee and one volunteer is better than 10 pressed persons, but without volunteers the committee will be pressing!

The AGM wished the club to donate some of the club's reserves to organisations which the club hopes it never has to use but would be very grateful if in need of them. £500.00 will therefore be donated to each of Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association, North Yorkshire Air Ambulance and Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team, who all received £500.00 previously following their club talks on Zoom. The meeting also wished to contribute to the Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust and the Green Lanes Alliance. The Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust has had bequests that mean it has to deplete its reserves to other organisations and the club therefore intends to join the Trust at £40.00 per annum. The Green Lanes alliance is part of a national organization, the Green Lane Environmental Action Movement (GLEAM). They only raise funds when specifically needed as when fighting a court case to protect green lanes, the club committee therefore decided to join The Green Lane Alliance at £25.00 per annum and GLEAM at £15.00 per annum.

The AGM noted the tremendous contribution Julia Riddington has made to the club with the wonderful website we now have. If you want to keep up to date with club activities keep visiting it. David Riley's contribution to the local papers continues to be very impressive and reminds local people of the club activities every week.

Members may not be aware that the club has responsibility for one trigpoint and two benches, the trig point being at Marton cum Grafton, which was kindly refurbished and repainted for us by Charles Everett, a trigpoint enthusiast from York. The C walk visited on 17th November.



It has been great to have new members joining over the last six months, making up for the members who did not renew their membership after the Covid epidemic. New blood is very welcome, and I have had the pleasure of meeting several new members on walks. So, to paraphrase Tessa and Claudia “Keep walking”. Hope to see you soon.

Greg Richardson
President