



# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 10 NOVEMBER 2018

## REPORT FROM THE CHAIR – RONI SANSOME

### Advisory Note

**I have to advise members that regarding General Data Protection Regulations, members are advised when the minutes are published if they participate in any discussion or vote, their names will be included.**

This has been another good year of walking for the Group, thanks to the continuing efforts of our regular leaders. In May relative newcomers to the Group, Martin and Lee organised and led a series of walks over the Spring Bank Holiday in Swanage. Although I couldn't join the trip, I understand the coastal path was slightly hilly, but there were no hills! Dave and I enjoyed the relative calm of a river cruise through Russia.

The other Group holiday away was to The Dordogne with Angela Holidays. 16 members joined the coach at an unearthly hour in the morning to be driven to Dover for the crossing. We stayed in the beautiful village of Rocamadour at The Hotel Lion D'OR. Richard organised four walks through the gorge and surrounding area. Most of the walkers became tourists, as the excursions were so tempting. Except for one day Richard and Tracey walked and were joined by a few others. The two days I did the walks, I really enjoyed the scenery and the history of the area, which has seen the river eat through the limestone to create spectacular gorges. These are overlooked by chateaux and churches cut into and joined onto almost perpendicular cliffs.

It has been proposed that the group embark on another excursion with this or a similar company next year. It might even be a regular addition to our programme. This would be great for those members who are looking for something more than simply walking. The Committee is all ears to hear from you, the members, with your ideas.

Eastleigh Ramblers celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. The first meeting was held on that day in 1988 and the following day held its first ramble. To celebrate, 16 walkers did a 6-mile walk around Fair Oak and Bishopstoke on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and finished it off with lunch at The Welcome Inn, Fair Oak. The weather was lovely and sunny, there was no mud, and the leaves were just turning colour.

The Footpath Secretary has his hands full with all the new housing developments in the Borough. Just going on the anniversary walk this was very evident.

There is an initiative from Ramblers Head Office titled 'Don't Lose Your Way' and everyone needs to be aware that our rights of way are under threat from the need to provide more housing, and also from lack of use. If you are aware of any path that might be subsumed into a development or lost through lack of use, it is very important that you let Ramblers know.

The Group has a small but very willing group of volunteers who have been involved in path clearance, bridge building and kissing-gate installation. The funding for this work comes from our General Fund, and Area has been supportive with some additional funding.

The post of Rambles Secretary has been renamed Walks Programme Co-ordinator this year and is now in the capable hands of Pauline Francis. She's taken on the role vacated by Chris Bond and

although the title has changed the same old problem still exists – that is a shortage of walk leaders. You will see from the table in Pauline’s report that there is strong competition at the top of the leader board between Richard and Cyril. I believe that they will have to share the trophy, six months each, or maybe cut it in half, or quarrel over it like Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum. I hope not that option!

My thanks go to Lee Armstrong for accepting the role of Secretary. This in spite of still being in the world of work (that four-letter word). Thanks too to Martin for his enthusiasm for walking, and the number of walks he’s provided us with even though he’s been struggling with a shoulder injury and recently undergone surgery. I only mention those few names, but we continue to be indebted to all the people who volunteer their time to support the group. On behalf of you all I say thank you to them.

## REPORT BY THE TREASURER – ROBERT BATTLE

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018

GENERAL ACCOUNT					
RECEIPTS	12 Months to 30.09.18	12 Months to 30.09.17	EXPENDITURE	12 Months to 30.09.18	12 Months to 30.09.17
	£	£		£	£
RA Grant	283.16	302.36	Postage	20.16	109.02
Area Grant	0	697.64	Photocopying	15.67	29.82
Affiliated Members	12.00	32.00	AGM Expenses	173.00	106.54
Advertising	0	0	Stationery/Reports	28.33	14.00
Bank Interest	0	0	F'path Sec'y Expenses	0	0
AGM	0	19.00	Secretarial Expenses	0	0
Sale of Walk Books	0	0	Footpaths	237.58	54.31
Sale of Badges	0	0	Publicity	0	0
Ramblers Holidays	120.00	120.00	Sundries	9.05	33.82
Misc		28.82	Leaders Expenses	0	0
Canal Trip	0	312.00	Canal Trip- boat hire	0	255.00
			Canal Trip-refunds	0	104.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>415.16</b>	<b>1511.82</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>483.79</b>	<b>706.51</b>

General Account- Summary	
	£
Opening Balance 01/10/17	1031.45
Deficit 2017/18	-68.63
Balance at 30/09/18	<b>962.82</b>

SOCIAL ACCOUNT					
RECEIPTS	12 Months to 30.09.18	12 Months to 30.09.17	EXPENDITURE	12 Months to 30.09.18	12 Months to 30.09.17
	£	£		£	£
Social Events	0	0	Social Events	0	0
Christmas Lunch	532.50	549.45	Christmas Lunch	532.50	549.00
			Photocopying	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>532.50</b>	<b>549.45</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>532.50</b>	<b>549.00</b>

Social Account- Summary	
	£
Opening Balance 01/10/17	772.81
Surplus/Deficit 2017/18	0.00
Balance at 30/09/18	<b>772.81</b>

**Balance Sheet at end of Financial Year 30th September 2018**

	£
General Account Balance	962.82
Social Account Balance	<u>772.81</u>
Cash in Bank	1735.63
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1735.63</b>

Having carried out procedures in accordance with the Area and Group guidelines, I consider the Eastleigh Group Accounts to have been properly prepared and that they give a true and fair view of the Group's finances for the year to 30th September 2018 .

Signed	Signed	Signed
Date	Date	Date
Peter Benham Examiner of Accounts Ashwood Clubhouse Lane Waltham Chase Hampshire SO32 2NN	Robert Battle Treasurer Group Executive Committee	Chairperson Group Executive Committee

Eastleigh Group registered Charity No. 1093577; Company Limited by guarantee No. 4458492

Notes to Financial Statement.

General Account

1. During the 2007-2008 year the committee agreed to designate an amount up to £1500 to be contributed to Footpath improvements in the West End area. Expenditure has continued in the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and it is anticipated that this will continue.

The Eastleigh Group has had a quiet year financially.

We continue to see the cost of communicating with our members reduce as more use is made of our website and e mail.

We are grateful to our members who took holidays via Ramblers Worldwide Holidays and our funds benefitted by £120 (previous year £120) from this source.

Our work on footpath improvement continues. As forecast last year, our expenditure has increased and this year we have spent £238 (up from £54) on small scale repairs to boardwalks, steps and path realignment.

Although our expenditure exceeded our income by £68.63, I'm pleased to say that Eastleigh Ramblers continue to be solvent.

Last year we reduced the value of our assets to reflect the almost non-existent sales of the Eastleigh Walks Book which is now very much out-of-date and this year we have reduced the value of our badge stock to Nil for similar reasons.

*Peter Benham has examined and approved the accounts.*

## REPORT BY THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY – CYRIL NIAS

21/10/17

189 members

23/10/18

176 members

As you can see from the figures, we have had a loss of thirteen members over the year which seems to be a trend over the whole Area. The only Groups gaining members are “members with no group” it’s sad to see the numbers declining but we are all getting older, one or two new leaders would help as with peoples commitments it gets harder to fill the programme.

## REPORT BY THE WALKS PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR – PAULINE FRANCIS

During the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017 - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 Eastleigh Ramblers completed a total of 140 walks covering a distance of 1079 miles.

These figures include holidays in Dorset, the Peak District and the Dordogne area of France.

The shorter mid-week walks started in 2017, which are most often held on a Thursday morning have proved to be very successful.

A big thank you to all our leaders. As you can see from the league tables two leaders have led over 50% of the walks between them. A special thank you to Richard and Cyril who share the cup for the most walks led.

We still need new leaders. Even if you only know one or two walks, we would be very grateful if you could share them with us and lead a walk.

Please remember to always check the programme on the website as walks are often added at short notice.

Walks Tables 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017 - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Leader	Walks led		Leader	Miles led
Richard *	37		Richard *	270.9
Cyril *	37		Cyril *	257
Jim	17		Jim	159.3
Martin & Lee	16		Martin & Lee	156.8
Pauline	9		Chris B	68.3
Chris B	8		Pauline	66.9
Tracey *	6		Tracey *	37.6
Roni & Dave	4		Roni & Dave	21
Bob	3		Bob	15.5
Malcolm & Chris	2		Malcolm & Chris	16
Marilyn	2		Marilyn	12
Gill	1		Gill	8.5

Jane	1		Jane	7.1
Rob	1		Rob	6.5

\* Richard led 3 walks totaling 19.9 miles jointly with Tracey and 1 walk of 4.5 miles jointly with Cyril.

## REPORT OF THE FOOTPATH SECRETARY – RICHARD KENCHINGTON

Every week there is some important news about matters affecting rights of way as there is now a significant amount of housing development and road works taking place in the Borough. It is impossible for me to keep even the Committee up to date on what is going on so I have developed the strategy of making the Group website an index of all the issues and including the latest position with relevant documents. It also helps me to keep track of things that I need to follow up. You will find this information at <https://www.eastleighramblers.org.uk/>. The address has changed the adding of the “s” in https:// means it is now certified as a secure site. I have also been producing a weekly newsletter (43 editions so far) notifications of which currently go out to 42 members. If you want to receive it send an email to [eastleighrambler@aol.com](mailto:eastleighrambler@aol.com) – I have to have a formal request to comply with Data Protection legislation. In it I include details of forthcoming rambles and events and the latest news on the rights of way in Eastleigh.

Two cases were referred by the Hampshire Area to Head Office and the Ramblers’ Chief Executive Vanessa Griffiths has been involved. Bridleway 724 Bishopstoke running from Stoke Common Road to Stoke Park Farm has been obstructed by Bellway Homes who built two houses on the route. The route is to be diverted to the alignment we sought from the outset and work is being undertaken to bring it into use. The other case was Footpath No 2 Botley which runs from Maddoxford Lane to Chancellors Lane across the former golf course. This is also obstructed but we now have a confirmed diversion order which will move the route to the locations we have been seeking and we are hoping the new routes will be available by the end of 2018. There are fourteen other paths affected by development at the moment but so far, we have not had to object to any Orders and have been successful in securing a satisfactory outcome. The Botley Bypass got planning permission this year and the future of the paths affected was secured through prior negotiations with Hampshire County Council.

A detailed response was sent to Eastleigh Borough Council on the draft Local Plan commenting on all the aspects which affect the rights of way in the Borough. 2019 may well see the need to pursue the matters we have raised at a Public Inquiry into the Local Plan if amendments to the Plan are not made to accommodate the matters we have raised.

## OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lee Armstrong – Secretary

Val Archer – Ordinary Member

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Report compiled and edited by Richard Kenchington - dated 4 November 2018

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