

Minutes of The Meeting of Ramblers Association Strathkelvin Group
held online using ZOOM at 7:00pm on Thursday 11th November 2021

Present: Jim Lawson - Chairperson and Footpaths; Neil Kitchener - Programme Co-ordinator; Archie Leishman – Webmaster; Barbara Martin - Halls Convenor; Stuart Ferguson - Membership Secretary; Anne Wilkie – Independent Member; Ann Martin – Independent Member.

1. Apologies:

Robert Bain – Treasurer and Bus Convenor
Marjory Dunn – Independent Member
Martha Thom – Independent Member

2. Minutes from Previous Committee Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2021 were accepted. Proposed by Barbara Martin and Seconded by Neil Kitchener.

3. Matters Arising

Strathkelvin Group AGM An email (letter to those whom we have no email address) giving notification to all members that Strathkelvin AGM will take place on ZOOM @ 7.00pm on Thursday, 18 November 2021. Included was the need to fill the Secretary's Position and also Walk Leaders to come forward and lead C and C+ walks on Saturdays.

Christmas Lunch – Taken under Social Events

4. Correspondence Report – Ann Martin

Sent a Sympathy card from club to Brenda Pate

Forwarded to Jim request from Rebekka for details of date etc for AGM.

Ann to send a get-well card to Margaret Gibb.

Note: Jim advised Bekah (North Strathclyde Area Secretary) and Jeannie (Ramblers Scotland) by email of the Strathkelvin AGM taking place on ZOOM @ 7.00pm on Thursday, 18 November 2021

5. Programme Sub Committee – Neil Kitchener

Programme of Walks

Since we resumed our programme of walks, Jim's Thursday walks and the high walkers have always managed to walk every week. Jenny Burgon led a very informative walk around Kirkintilloch and Lenzie attended by 20 members to visit sites associated with Beatrice Clugston. We are still struggling to

encourage the low walkers to submit walks but I do have a potential walk from Twechar. I currently have offers of high walks for the next three weeks.

In spite of recent easing of the restrictions, Ramblers have still not updated their advice for walks and events since 18th August. I contacted Jeannie about car sharing and forwarded her response to the committee for review and discussion.

The programme will continue to be issued on a weekly basis until there has been a significant change in the rules and there are minimal restrictions.

Ramblers HQ are planning to organise Eurorando in Transylvania next year. See extract from HQ below.

Eurorando 2021/22 -based in Sibiu, Romania in 2021 and 2022. To be held over 2 years due to the corona virus pandemic. The first part of the Eurorando did take place from 26th September to 3rd October 2021 and the final event will take place from 11 -18th September 2022. The organisers have prepared accommodation and walks packages which can be booked on-line. This is a pan European event held every 5 years. More information is available on the European Ramblers Association website.

Note: The Kirkintilloch and Bishopbriggs Herald published on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 has an article '**Walking in the footsteps of Beatrice Clugston**' giving a very detailed account of the walk led by Jenny Burgon.

6. Social Events – Neil Kitchener

No social events have been held since February last year.

Arrangements for the Christmas Lunch to be held on Sunday 12th December are well in hand and further events will be organised when the rules are relaxed.

Note: Neil asked if the committee were happy with the Christmas Lunch Menu and the price of £23.00 per person. Committee is happy so Neil will send an email out to members detailing arrangements including how to book and pay for the Christmas Lunch.

7. Training Update – James Lawson

Ramblers Courses – book through Eventbrite

Navigation (Advanced) 2 Days - 13 and 14 November - Pentlands (Carlops)

Sat, Nov 13, 10:00

Carlin's Loup Car Park (opposite the village hall) • Carlops

Free

Save Navigation (Advanced) 2 Days - 13 and 14 November - Pentlands (Carlops) to your collection.

Ramblers Scotland Masterclass - Mountain Rescue

Mon, Nov 15, 19:00

Free

Save Ramblers Scotland Masterclass - Mountain Rescue to your collection.

Walk Leadership Next Steps - Perth

Wed, Nov 17, 09:00

Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park, Jubilee Car Park • Perth

Free

Save Walk Leadership Next Steps - Perth to your collection.

Out There Award (Aberdeen)

Wed, Nov 17, 10:00

Sport Aberdeen - Beach Leisure Centre • Aberdeen

Free

Save Out There Award (Aberdeen) to your collection.

Am I being a responsible walker? Learn about Scottish access rights.

Wed, 17 Nov 2021 18:00 GMT

Free

Save Am I being a responsible walker? Learn about Scottish access rights. to your collection.

Walk Leadership Next Steps - Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire

Thu, Nov 18, 09:45

Castle Semple Visitor Centre - Car Park • Lochwinnoch

Free

Save Walk Leadership Next Steps - Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire to your collection.

Walk Leadership Next Steps - Coatbridge

Sat, Nov 20, 09:00

Drumpellier Country Park Visitors Centre • Gartcosh

Free

Save Walk Leadership Next Steps - Coatbridge to your collection.

Walk Leadership Next Steps - Huntly, Aberdeenshire

Sat, Nov 20, 09:00

Greenmyres Eco Bothy (Huntly Development Trust) • Huntly

Free

Save Walk Leadership Next Steps - Huntly, Aberdeenshire to your collection.

Walk Leadership Next Steps - Linlithgow

Mon, Nov 22, 09:00

Muiravonside Country Park • Linlithgow

Free

Save Walk Leadership Next Steps - Linlithgow to your collection.

Ramblers Scotland social media training

Thu, 25 Nov 2021 18:00 GMT

Free

Save Ramblers Scotland social media training to your collection.

Am I being a responsible walker? Learn about Scottish access rights.

Wed, 1 Dec 2021 18:00 GMT

Free

Save Am I being a responsible walker? Learn about Scottish access rights. to your collection.

Ramblers Scotland's view on rewilding

Wed, 8 Dec 2021 17:00 GMT

Free

Save Ramblers Scotland's view on rewilding to your collection.

Ramblers Scotland social media training - advertising on Facebook

Thu, 9 Dec 2021 18:00 GMT

Free

Save Ramblers Scotland social media training - advertising on Facebook to your collection.

Growing your membership - creating a warm welcome for new members

Thu, 10 Feb 2022 18:00 GMT

Free

Save Growing your membership - creating a warm welcome for new members to your collection.

Dick Balharry Memorial Talk with Andrew Painting, ecologist at Mar Lodge

Fri, 4 Mar 2022 19:00 GMT

Free

8. Treasurer's Report – Robert Bain

Treasurer's Report					
For the month ended	31 October 2021				
				Social	General
				Fund	Fund
Receipts				£	£
Area Funding Group				-	-
Recce monies				-	-
				-	-
Payments					
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
Net receipts / (payments)				-	-
Balance brought forward				928	826
Balance carried forward				928	826
Outstanding items					
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-

Excess on General Fund

According to Ramblers Association Guidance groups should not have funds in excess £500 at the year-end – 30 September. Our group exceeded this amount and therefore our funding for this year will be adjusted to bring us into line with the guidance by 30 September 2022. All calculations have been based on a return to a normal level of activity for the 2021/22 year.

9. Membership Secretary's Report – 09 November 2021 – Stuart Ferguson

Update since last meeting on 14 October 2021.

Total Membership	146
New Members	1
Lapsed	5
Resigned	0
Moved Group	0
Deceased	0

Details:

New Members: Carol Jakar

A welcome letter has been sent to the new member.

Lapsed: Ian McCallum
Lisa McDonald
Elizabeth O'Brien
Carol Watt
David Kennedy

Membership down now to 146.

Note: Stuart explained that Ramblers' new policy was that lapsed members are no longer members and are not included in the Group membership total (currently 146) hence the drop. Also, Stuart thought with the lack easy Saturday walks the Group would continue to lose members. Committee members agreed.

10. Website Report 11th November 2021– Archie Leishman

Activity from 14th October to Date:

Changes to Email Contacts List

Additions –

Elham Hashemi, who is a member of the Glasgow group and has been walking regularly with us since early October.

Carol Jakar, an existing Ramblers member, who is new to the area.

The total number of entries on our email contacts list has therefore increased by 2 to 116.

A number of members have lapsed their membership and have been removed from the Ramblers database. They all have registered email addresses and are still on our contacts list.

Prior to sending out the information to members on Sunday about the forthcoming AGM, I excluded the 6 lapsed members from the distribution list. Their contact details have been retained in a separate group so that can easily be included in any future communications.

Should they be deleted permanently from our list?

Note: Committee discussed the question and agreed they should be removed and if they do renew their membership they can be added back on to the list.

New Ramblers Website

In my role of webpage editor, I received an invitation on Tuesday of this week to attend an online session about the new Ramblers website. It takes place on Monday 29th November using Zoom. The initial launch of the new website is scheduled for January 2022.

11. Access Report – James Lawson

Milton-of-Campsie Community Council

Neither Ann nor Neil have been able to get an update on footpath repairs at Redmoss from the Community Council.

12. Short Walks Report – James Lawson

Thu, 21 st Oct 2021	Linear Walk – Start at St Mary’s Church, Kirkintilloch – walk along Forth and Clyde Canal to Cadder – walk up to Strathkelvin Retail Park – Bus back to St Mary’s Church, Kirkintilloch. Number on walk = 13
Thu, 28 th Oct 2021	Circular Walk – Start at Campsie Memorial Hall, Lennoxton – walk via dam – new forest plantation – Nature Reserve – through forest on South side of Glazert Water – back down Station Road to start. Number on walk = 10
Thu, 04 th Nov 2021	Circular Walk – Start at Kilsyth Swimming Pool and walk around round Drumbreck Marsh to Auchinstarry - Coach Road – path through woods to Culzuim – follow path behind houses back to start of walk. Note: Longer walk than normal due to centre of Drumbreck Marsh being sealed off by contractors and to avoid busy road. Number on walk = 12
Thu, 11 th Nov 2021	Circular Walk – Start at Twechar Canal Bridge – follow Forth and Clyde Canal to Auchinstarry – stopped at quarry to observe one minute silence – walk back through Drumbreck Marsh to start of walk. Number on walk = 12

13. Bus Convenor’s Report – 11 November 2021 – Robert Bain

Nothing to report.

14. Hall Convenors Report - Barbara Martin

Updated Hall Bookings for 2021

STRATHKELVIN RAMBLERS' HALL BOOKINGS 2021

COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2021	PROGRAMME MEETINGS	STRATHKELVIN RAMBLERS A.G.M.
7p.m. - 9p.m. KIRKINTILLOCH MINERS' WELFARE CLUB Committee Room	6.30p.m. - 9p.m. KIRKINTILLOCH MWC Function room	7p.m. - 9p.m. 18th November 2021 - ZOOM
NIL - Jan 18th Feb - ZOOM Mar - pending Gov. advice 1st Apr - ZOOM 13th May - ZOOM 3rd June - ZOOM NIL - July 5th Aug - ZOOM 2nd Sept - ZOOM 14th Oct - ZOOM 11th Nov - ZOOM 2nd Dec	TBC require use of kitchen and hot water for making tea/coffee	 CHRISTMAS LUNCH 12th Dec 2021 - 2.00P.M. GLAZERT COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL
TBC		

15. A.O.C.B.

AGM – Strathkelvin AGM taking place on ZOOM @ 7.00pm on Thursday, 18 November 2021 Jim to send out ZOOM link and pdf copy of AGM* Document to those with email. Also, to contact Jeannie at Ramblers Scotland about hosting the ZOOM meeting to prevent having to use 40-minute slots. A speaker to be requested if available.

* Copy pdf AGM Document to committee for comment before sending to members.

Car Sharing – Neil had emailed Ramblers Scotland regarding this Scottish problem (in England and Wales car sharing is allowed) due to Scottish Government Policy. The reply was:

'Yes, I hear you on car sharing, it's difficult for all groups. Throughout this pandemic we've signposted members and group to the latest Scottish Gov guidance on travel, we haven't imposed anything ourselves so there is no Ramblers rules to relax as it were. The latest guidance from Transport Scotland is however more relaxed than it was. It's ultimately down to individual choice but we'd encourage everyone to follow Transport

Scotland's guidance on car sharing here: <https://www.transport.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/advice-on-how-to-travel-safely/#section-63888>

I think however we're a long way from everyone meeting at a car park and piling into different cars to get to the start of a walk, as we used to do. There's no doubt this is having an impact on how groups operate and members' ability to participate. There's no easy answer at the moment Neil I'm afraid, we're in unprecedented times. We can only hope that by next spring we might be through the worst of this and back to some normality but none of us can really know. Certainly car sharing is possible for those that wish to, but the gov guidance above limits it to ideally no more than 2 in a car. So, if possible, it's still a good idea to have in the mix walks accessible by public transport and also perhaps the occasional coach walk if it's feasible, although it might not stack up financially with restricted numbers.'

Note: Not very helpful in solving our problem in getting non-drivers to start of walks or carrying out recce's.

There being no further business the meeting* concluded at 8.15pm.

* Due to ZOOM time limits the meeting was in two parts 19.00 – 19.35 then 19.45 – 20.10

James Lawson (Jim)

Chairperson Strathkelvin Ramblers