

FOOTNOTES

News from Ramblers City of Birmingham Group



Issue No. 69
Spring 2012

Editor
David Sutton
Contact:
194 Station Road
Kings Heath
Birmingham
B14 7TE

0121 444 6188

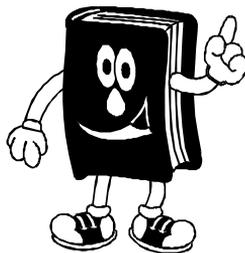
Email:
David.sutton986@
btinternet.com

Inside this issue:

Social Scene	2
Rambler of the Year	3
Scotland and more of the unexpected	5

Muddy Meanderings

From David Sutton



Welcome to the Spring issue. It may seem a long time since our group's AGM last November, but for those of you who were not able to attend, I'm sure you will be interested to read the report starting on page 3. The event provided an opportunity to celebrate some of our members who have excelled for the group, including our Top Walk Leaders and our Rambler of the Year.

Those of you who remember Ken Waugh's amusing piece in issue 62, can read more of his unexpected adventures—this time in 'Scotland and more of the unexpected'.

I hope you enjoy this issue and, if you're out with the group—see you on the walks! ■

Social Scene 2012

From our Social Secretary, Derek Garfield



A Social Event I had nothing to do with organising was the Christmas Ramble and Lunch, the lunch being a really splendid affair masterminded by Steve Brittain. I can remember the days when this lunch was no more than a few sausage rolls and some cheese and pineapple chunks, eaten in our boots and often sodden clothing before we set off for what was often a soggy afternoon walk. How things have moved on! Last year, people didn't exactly get dolled up but certainly looked very presentable when they sat down for an excellent, waiter served three course meal. So, well done Steve for a lot of detailed organising.

We are at the time of writing looking forward to The Group Annual Dinner which will be held again at The Eaton Hotel on the Hagley Road on 2nd March (yes, dining well is a fine hobby). Our after dinner presentation will enlighten us on The Titanic disaster and the Birmingham connection with the ship, particularly topical since this year is the 100th anniversary of the Titanic sinking. More about this in the next issue of *Footnotes*.

On 5th May, we are off on our first Walk Day Out of the year when we will be walking along the coast into Weston super Mare. This is in support of the national "Coast for Most" campaign. We will hopefully have a jolly seaside day in Weston particularly if we can actually see the sea!

So, here's to a joyous Spring! ■

Socially yours
Derek Garfield

Rambler of the Year Award

Report from the Group AGM

By David Sutton

Our AGM was held as usual this year at the Grimshaw Room at St. Chad's Cathedral on 11th November last. Members were treated to a very comprehensive overview of the past year of activities as well as the usual formalities of the committee elections. Sandwiched between that and our usual excellent buffet was the awards presentations, inaugurated last year by Chair Libby Hunt.

The year's Top Leader award results from the 70 individuals who had led for the Group since November 2010. This included leading holidays, Ridges and Tops, Public and special walks. The following people had led six times: Pauline Schofield, Bob Hunt, Alan Barker, Brenda Cameron, Bernard Horton and Roger Gibbs. Kate Chester led seven and Libby herself had led eight walks. However, Libby announced that there were three people who stood out as Prolific Leaders and they deserved special thanks. She announced the presentation of specially designed Top Leader certificates: nine walks had been led by both **Andy Bates** and **Steve Brittain**. And the very Top Leader with 11 walks to her credit was **SANDRA SUTTON**. Libby thanked all the Top Leaders for their efforts throughout the year.

Rambler of the Year. Libby went on to announce the winner of



the annual award for The Rambler of the Year. Throughout the year, Group members had nominated non-committee volunteers to receive this annual award, from which the Committee voted for the person they considered most deserved the award. The winner had served on the Birmingham Group Committee for nine years as Treasurer, Chairman and Secretary, in fact in all the responsible Officer Roles, one after the

other. Since leaving the Committee, this person has continued to serve our Group by being a regular member of the team who put Footnotes, Walker and Programmes into envelopes addressed to members on Posting Night, and for many years being an active member of Roger Gibb's Task Force. This person's dedication truly deserved to be recognized and Libby announced that the Rambler of the Year 2011 was **PHIL BARNES**. Phil received an engraved cup, with many congratulations. Phil had said that he was flabbergasted to receive the award and that joining the group was the best thing he had ever done, for the pleasure and companionship it had given him.



Long Service Award. Libby finally announced that a remarkably dedicated person was retiring from the Committee after twenty years of service. **CERI DITTRICH** had joined the Committee in 1991, arranging the Christmas Buffet Ramble in Stourport for many years. From November 1994 to 1997 she had served most efficiently as Group Secretary and then as membership Secretary, welcoming prospective members by sending out Group information, until November 2003 when she took on the office of Group Secretary for a second time. For the past seven years she had worked diligently as Publicity Secretary. Ceri had tirelessly attended meetings with other local organizations and liaised with Get Walking Keep Walking. She had encouraged the Group to take part in national RA initiatives and represented the Ramblers' at various events in the city, setting up stalls and displays. Every task that Ceri took on, she demonstrated the same degree of care and attention to detail, putting in a great deal of time and effort, showing both determination and enterprise. For all this Libby had said that Ceri was a worthy recipient of a very special Long Service Award for her outstanding contribution to Birmingham Ramblers. In collecting the award Ceri had said that she had found her various roles on the committee over the years had provided her with lots of fun. ■

Scotland and more of the unexpected

By Ken Waugh

Not having any Munro bagging ambitions I took a coach tour of Scotland early one October. It was inclusive of flights to and from Edinburgh, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, Aviemore with a funicular journey to the summit, the Great Glen, Caledonian Canal, Loch Ness and Inverness, an excellent six day tour.

On the second morning, before six o'clock, I was shattered by an incredible sound from the clock radio. It wouldn't switch off despite hunting for the relevant cable lead. My great concern was that I would have the neighbours hammering on the walls. Panic set in and I resorted to thumping the apparatus and even trying to take it apart. Inspiration: I took it into the bathroom hoping to confine the noise, and placed it in the bath, but didn't drown it! Success, the noise had moderated until I returned to the room where I then "woke up" to realise the fire alarm was the cause. I evacuated the building with a feeling of relief and probably with a smile on my face, as my ordeal was over. The Fire Brigade eventually arrived to complete their check and allow everyone to return to their rooms. We moved on after breakfast without knowing the cause of the alarm.

Norman Wisdom had died two days previously and I'm sure he would have been impressed with my frenetic wrestling and assault on the alarm clock, which had survived undamaged

The next day and en route to Aviemore we visited the Glenlivet Distillery and, of course, sampled the product before stopping later for lunch where, we were informed, we should see red squirrels. However, whilst consuming my snack I was again afflicted by a nose bleed. This time there was no charming Geordie lass in attendance but I was well

cosseted by the more mature ladies in the group.

Between them I think I had cornered the market with the



restaurant's serviettes. I was reminded of the treatment; pinch the nose tip and breathe through the mouth for ten minutes. I eventually went out to see the squirrels, but only one had been seen.

Obviously, we should have sampled more at Glenlivet!

Later, when arriving at Aviemore, we found the Funicular ticket office closed, unbelievably, due to a test fire alarm. For the second time in two days we had to wait for the Fire Brigade to arrive and complete their tests before proceeding.

The unexpected was not all downhill, as the weather for four days was outstanding and enabled me to complete my own city tour of Edinburgh as we had nearly four hours on both the arrival and departure days to wander off on our own. A beautiful city indeed.

At Inverness and with two hours free time I enjoyed a good stretch along and back on the other side of the River Ness.

There were two Brummie couples in the party and I think my enthusiasm for walking rubbed off on them. I shall maintain contact to ascertain their progress! ■

Thoughts on Peter Hope

By Andy Bates

Peter was a very keen walker and dancer; he started walking with Holiday Fellowship, then the CHA and later with the RA, when the CHA stopped running coaches. He led a lot for the CHA on their YHA weekends, when they struggled for leaders. Although a good map reader he did struggle with judging distances and it happened on a few occasions that the party got back to the Hostel just as meals were being served! When he was younger not many people could keep up with him when climbing hills. Peter had an extremely good memory and could recall almost any walk he had ever been on, as well as this he kept a filing system detailing info on all the walks he went on. A number of people from the CHA and RA attended Peter's funeral and he will be sadly missed by both groups. ■

HELP WITH A QUESTIONNAIRE...

I'm currently in my final year studying Fashion Marketing at Northumbria University. For my final collection I am designing men's hiking wear garments. The idea behind the questionnaire is to provide the researcher with an insight into the current outerwear consumer and what may be missing in the current market place. It is only a short questionnaire consisting of 10 questions which are both closed and open-ended answer formats. Thanks again. Return postage will be provided. If you are interested in helping with this research contact Francesca Cobb at: Francesca_c1205@hotmail.co.uk



CONTRIBUTE TO FOOTNOTES!

Your articles, letters, photographs and anecdotes are welcome. Write to the editor, David Sutton at 194 Station Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7TE.
(Email: david.sutton986@btinternet.com. Phone 0121 444 6188)

Sign up for the e-newsletter...

The Birmingham Group now have an occasional email Newsletter. News and reminders about forthcoming social events, walk changes and information, and other items of interest to group members direct to your inbox. To sign-up, simply email the editor: david.sutton986@btinternet.com

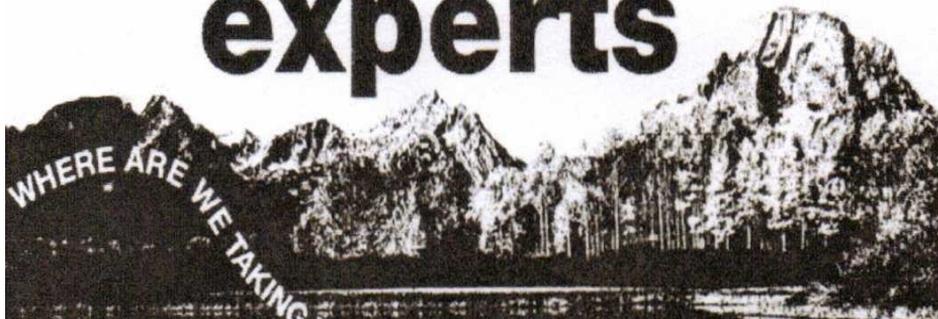


Please Note: Any discounts shown in this publication are wholly at the discretion of the retailer and are not an entitlement to Ramblers members.



The Ramblers' Association is a registered charity (England & Wales no 1093577, Scotland no SC039799) and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales (no 4458492). Registered office: 2nd floor, Camelford House, 87-90 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TW

The walking holiday **experts**



WHERE ARE WE TAKING YOU? NORTH SOUTH EAST WEST

Up high. Down low.
We'll show you the right path.

Discover new countries.

Experience new activities.

Enjoy meeting new friends.

For the perfect holiday walk our way.

Quote ref: ED90

0845-470 8559
www.hfholidays.co.uk

hfholidays
better walking altogether