

TAKE A HIKE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

2.30pm Saturday 16th November 2019

The Victoria, 28 Great George St, Leeds LS1 3DL

Committee attendees:

General Secretary:	Susan Wilkinson
Walks Secretary:	Steve Noble
Footpath Secretary:	Steve Fleming
Social Secretary:	Deirdre Maguire
Web Secretary:	Dave Husband

Apologies:

Andy Newing, Mike Petch, Vicki Wilkinson, Richard Hall, Angela Bailey

Meeting opened at 14:35

Susan Wilkinson welcomed everyone to the meeting and set out the agenda. She noted that all the current committee members were prepared to stand again for their respective positions with the exception of the joint Social Secretary Mike Petch. Susan also noted that Katherine Dexter had offered to stand as a joint social secretary next year.

Minutes of the Last meeting/matter arising.

Ian Parker proposed the minutes and Peter Williamson seconded them. It was agreed that the previous minutes were a fair and accurate record of last year's meeting.

General Secretary / Treasurer – Susan Wilkinson

It's been an active year for Take A Hike, with group members organising an array of walks and socials including some of the staple favourites, intermingled with new ideas and destinations. We've welcomed members returning to walking after a break, as well as a steady stream of new faces, many of whom have joined the Ramblers. We've updated the FAQs and the group has organised walks and socials with new members in mind, as well as those catering for the regulars.

This year Take A Hike members have benefitted from positive developments coming centrally from the Ramblers. For example, several members attended free St Johns Ambulance first aid training sessions in Leeds and Otley which were part of a national initiative. Walk leader training may be organised in a similar way in 2020. We will try to share key developments on social media/web but the best way to keep informed is to sign up for Ramblers e-mail bulletins.

The introduction of the Ramblers App has been another development. Free to members, the App shows upcoming Take A Hike walks and Ramblers news, and it can be used to take the register on walks. We have tried it out on a few walks. I encourage you to download it. Steve will tell you more.

There were no incidents or complaints reported this year, which is good news.

From a publicity perspective, advertising the majority of walks in the Take A Hike MeetUp Group continues to generate a manageable level of interest, with many people mentioning the 'try 2 or 3 walks before deciding to join' message when attending. A number of MeetUp users have now joined the Ramblers.

On 9th November the Ramblers media team came up north to interview Nikki and Rich Hall and film them in a group walk setting. The crew also took the opportunity to do some 'voxpops' with other members, mainly about the benefits of walking and being a member of Take A Hike and the Ramblers. Thank you to Nikki and Rich for contacting the Ramblers about their story and to everyone who took part. It was a fun experience and a great opportunity to share our passion for walking and all things Take A Hike! We should see the output on social media in the lead up to the Ramblers Winter Festival Of Walks 20th December to 5th January.


I would like to thank my fellow committee members and reps for their hard work and support this year. It's great to work with enthusiastic people sharing new ideas, having positive discussion and getting things done.

I would also like to thank every group member who has organised a walk, weekend away or a social, or attended one. This is what keeps the group going. As in previous years, I would encourage all members to consider what they could do for the group, no matter how small. If you think there's something missing from the diary, could you volunteer to do something to fill the gap? It doesn't have to be complicated. Maybe you could lead your favourite local walk or simply organise a trip to the pub.

Here's to more fresh air and fun in 2020 (when Take A Hike turns 18!)

Treasurer's Report

TAKE A HIKE FINANCES 2018-19 (1st October 2018 to 30th September 2019)				
MAIN				Notes
Income (Ramblers Funding & Donations)		Expenditure (Running Costs)		
Funding from the Ramblers (Jan-19)	£ 295.00	AGM 2018 room hire	£ 30.00	Meetup Subscription 2019 not listed because payment of the subscription transferred to Area from Jan-19.
Bank Account Interest	£ -	Meetup Subscription 2018	£ 139.14	
	£ 295.00		£ 169.14	
SELF-FUNDED				
Income (Social Event Ticket Sales)		Expenditure (Social Event Costs)		
Winter Bash Jan-19	£ 570.00	Winter Bash Jan-19	£ 492.75	Winter Bash Jan-19 [£77.25 surplus]
Summer Bash Jun-19	£ 735.00	Summer Bash Jun-19	£ 610.80	Summer Bash Jun-19 [£124.20 surplus]
	£ 1,305.00		£ 1,103.55	Overall [£201.45 surplus]
GRAND TOTAL				<u>Summary</u>
Bank balance brought forward 1st Oct 2018	£ 403.43			Main: TAH spent less Ramblers funds than forecast due to Meetup subscription transferring to the West Riding Area.
Total Income (Main + Self Funded)	£ 1,600.00			Self-Funded: Bash ticket sales exceeded expenditure. Surplus held as a buffer to offset/subsidise future bashes.
Less Total Expenditure (Main + Self Funded)	£ 1,272.69			Overall: Bank balance at 30th Sept 2019 is made up of £397.22 accumulated Ramblers funding and £333.52 self-funded (accumulated Bash surplus).
Total Income vs Expenditure for the year	£ 327.31			Ramblers funding can only be spent on Group running costs. 2019-20 basic funding request submitted. It is recommended that TAH looks to utilise the accumulated Ramblers funding in 2020.
Bank balance as at 30th Sept 2019	£ 730.74			


8/11/19
D. AAKLEY FCA

SW explained that the bank balance was quite healthy and that next year's committee could look to spend some of the funds built up on suitable projects.

Nikki Hall proposed the Finances and Dawn Leggott seconded them.

Walks Secretary Report – Stephen Noble

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone that has contributed to the last 12 months and who has taken the time to put on walks for the group.

The weather this year has been mixed with heavy rain and flooding causing some structural damage in the areas where we walk. Due to the weather we had a few walks postponed or cancelled as it would not have been safe, thank you to the walk leaders for making the right call and to everyone for understanding.

It has been a good year with new walk leaders getting involved, along with many of the usual faces supporting the group with walks and walking weekends away.

Overall, we have achieved the same number of walks as last year with a small reduction in the total miles walked.

During the last 12 months there were:

- 119 walks covering 930.3 miles which is down by 5.6% from the previous year when there were 119 walks covering 985.1 miles. The average distance of walks was 7.81 miles versus 8.2 for the previous year which is down by 5.6%.
- 69 weekend walks covering 670.8 miles which is down on the previous year when there were 71 walks covering 770.4 miles. This is a drop of 12.9%. The average distance of weekend walks went down from 10.85 to 9.72 miles which is a decrease of 10.4%.
- 50 evening walks covering 259.5 miles which is an increase on the previous year when there were 48 walks covering 214.7 miles. This is an increase of 20.9%. The average distance of evening walks went up from 4.47 to 5.19 miles which is an increase of 16.0%.

This year the Ramblers launched a mobile app which a few of us have been trying out as a way of taking the register on walks, with the walk's leaders consent. The app can do away with the pen and paper, especially when it's raining and the paper gets wet. Included on the last page of this report are a few screen shots of the data captured.

SN – asked a question about whether it would be good to acknowledge the person or people who have led the most walks over the course of the year.

Peter Williamson suggested that he did not think there should be a full-scale competition between walk leaders. Nikki Hall suggested that there could be some acknowledgement for walk leaders but that it should not be a competition.

Membership Secretary Report – Angela Bailey

Susan Wilkinson read out the report from Angela Bailey who was abroad and could not attend the meeting.

Currently Take a Hike has 199 members, an increase of 12 members since the same time last year. We currently make up just under 7% of Ramblers members for the area. 34 new members have joined the group since December 2018.

Membership numbers have increased by approximately 7% on last year, which shows that the efforts made over the past year to encourage new members (such as posting as many walks as possible on MeetUp) have paid off.

We continue to send the 'welcome to Take A Hike' e-mail to new members and a reminder to people whose membership has lapsed (where GDPR allows).

Social Secretary Report – Deirdre Maguire & Michael Petch

2019 started most excellently with the Winter Bash expertly organised by outgoing social secretary David Catchpole. This was at The Lamb and Flag in Leeds and was well attended with over 50 tickets sold. Although a small profit was made, this was due to last minute sales and slight under-ordering of food. The £10 price per ticket was felt to be unsustainable for future bash events if food, DJ and room hire were taken into consideration.

It has been a good year for socials including multiple theatre trips, activities such as escape room, ten pin bowling and many opportunities to sample beer (other drinks available) at festivals and pub crawls! Evening meal socials included South Indian curries, Polish food and more casual pub food options combined with a walk or a quiz.

Members of TAH have organised a multitude of walking weekends away to locations in the Dales, Lake District and even Northumberland. Some of these have been DIY which gives members flexibility re accommodation, number of nights stayed etc.

For the Summer Bash, we looked at a variety of new venues as well as looking at the list David Catchpole provided us with. In the end, the committee agreed a £15 per head price. This meant we could secure The Parkside Tavern upstairs room complete with pool table, private bar, outside area for personal use and we hired our own DJ. Due to cost of room hire, we opted for pizza for food. Thanks to Take a Hike members for supporting their club with good ticket sales prior to the event. The pizzas were well received and arrived hot from the oven and did not last long! The outside area was well used when the evening brightened up later on in the evening. The pool table was well used and a few pool sharks were outed! It was noted that this venue has a good sound system which is available for hire for £50 per night, and it may be worth considering just hiring the speakers if folk could be persuaded to bring their own 30 minute selections of songs to play which could be collated on an I-pod/ I-pad/ similar. This could potentially mean we could lower the price of the Summer Bash to £12 per head.

There were discussions about the Thursday night pub meet. Some years ago, this was well attended often with 30-40 people, but over recent years numbers have dwindled. We discussed whether we needed to change the night of the week or location. It was felt that the Scarborough Taps is ideally situated given its locality to the train station, and that perhaps a revamp could help. The September pub meet was advertised as a New Member's Night on MeetUp and Take a Hike website. This was well attended with 20-30 people, approximately a 50:50 split new to old members. We plan initially to run every second Thursday pub meet as a new member's night, with potentially an emphasis on a New Member's Night in January.

Looking forwards to 2020, we are lucky to have such an active walking group with a great bunch of members. Hopefully we can continue to attract new members and retain some of the old faces. The time and effort that people put into keeping the social diary busy and supporting events is fully appreciated and we hope to continue in this ilk and strive to build on this.



Footpath Secretary Report – Steve Fleming

There is still a widespread problem with local authorities in Yorkshire having very limited available funds to look after the footpath network. This varies significantly from area to area with some authorities such as Leeds and Wakefield doing much better than others. North Yorkshire still has a backlog of around 10,000 footpath issues. Many local authorities are becoming more dependant of volunteers to do practical path clearance and some maintenance work.

A major part of the work of footpath officers has been to respond to the many different new urban developments where they affect rights of way. Plans for new developments are running at a high level in areas like Harrogate, Bradford, Kirklees and Leeds. Footpath Officers frequently intervene to ensure rights of way are not extinguished or diverted in a completely unsuitable way. Sometimes developers are completely unaware that rights of way exist on their site and need to be reminded with a forceful objection. Officers also deal with many other issues such as the impact on footpaths of erosion on green lanes by 4x4 drivers, the proposed HS2 rail link, the A59 realignment and proposed flood alleviation schemes for example.

In May this year Take a Hike undertook a footpath survey in the Yeadon area. We had very good attendance with 20 people helping to check the status of the paths in that area. Most paths were found to be in reasonable condition but the footpath running around the Leeds/Bradford airport southern perimeter was obstructed by vegetation growth and was impassable. The problems were reported and the Ramblers Pathwatch app was used to record the issues.

Take a Hike members came across a variety of problems in the Whinmoor, Spofforth and Sicklinghall areas including broken stiles, missing signage and very overgrown paths plus a bridge that need to be replaced. These were all reported and are now being dealt with.

In late August Take a Hike surveyed paths in the Kirkby Overblow area and found various problems including a series of stiles that were rotted and broken plus quite a few partly overgrown paths where going was difficult and in one case seemed completely blocked. Steve F demonstrated the Pathwatch app and gave an overview of survey work.

Footpath issues were also encountered in the Wyke area north of Leeds. These were reported and the path has now been cleared by contractors. Susan W kindly reported problems with a footpath on the outskirts of Knaresborough which has now been cleared.

Steve F and Keith Wadd visited the site of the former bridge at Skewkirk near York where there is likely to be a Public Inquiry which will determine the status of the route leading to and crossing the River Nidd at this point. Evidence of a substantial trackway on the southern side of the river was found and may help with the public enquiry.

Following the Deregulation Act 2015 we need to bear in mind that the 2026 cut-off date is coming closer and any paths not yet on the definitive map as rights of way could potentially be lost. At the moment we are seeking a replacement for our footpath officer in Bradford district. Anyone is interested in getting involved or observing what goes on is welcome to come along to footpath committee meetings.

SF said that he continued to Chair the West Riding Footpath Committee and would be happy to hear from anyone who was interested in doing footpath work.



Webmaster Report – David Husband

It's been just over a year since the move to our new hosting provider, and we have had our first upgrade which will hopefully provide us with a better service and also give us more control over the site that was missing with the level of access we had under The Design Mechanics.

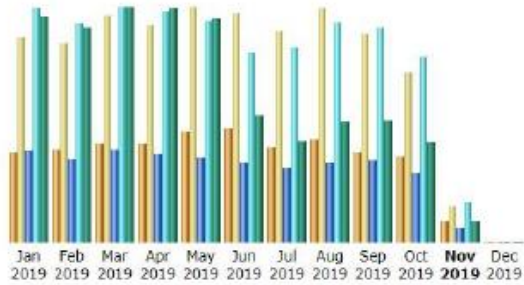
The Group Info section of the site has had an overhaul to include a new set of FAQs based on queries received by the committee, as well as a refresh of the more common questions. Content updates will continue to be managed by the Walks Secretary, Footpath Secretary and myself as before.

I've had comments from new members finding the site for the first time saying how the layout and content has been helpful in deciding which walk to come along to, so thanks should go to the walk leaders for coming up with interesting descriptions. It's also good to know that the site still features on the first page of search results from your search engine of choice!

Our other online presences (Facebook/Meetup) continue to be managed by Stephen Noble, Steve Fleming and myself, with much of the Facebook content being provided by Susan Wilkinson including the now obligatory post-walk collages. Website MI follows on the next 2 pages.

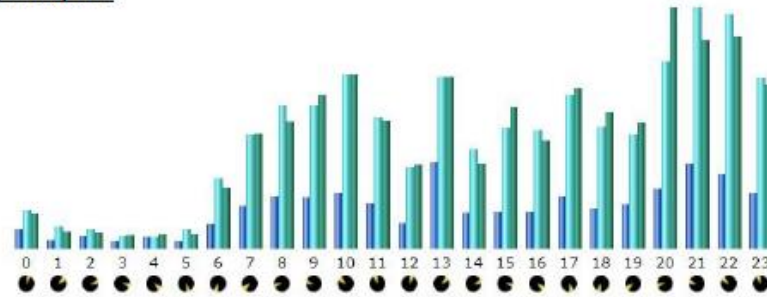
TAKE A HIKE

Requests by month



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	HITS	Bandwidth
Jan 2019	3,620	8,158	31,106	79,569	2.78 GB
Feb 2019	3,702	7,912	28,342	74,217	2.63 GB
Mar 2019	3,952	9,073	31,873	79,685	2.88 GB
Apr 2019	3,994	8,667	30,113	78,518	2.87 GB
May 2019	4,401	9,349	29,009	75,388	2.75 GB
Jun 2019	4,479	9,106	27,179	64,346	1.55 GB
Jul 2019	3,749	8,404	25,011	65,952	1.23 GB
Aug 2019	4,141	9,306	27,390	74,671	1.47 GB
Sep 2019	3,631	8,263	28,073	72,680	1.48 GB
Oct 2019	3,400	6,722	23,316	62,551	1.22 GB
Nov 2019	870	1,416	4,818	13,540	269.88 MB
Dec 2019	0	0	0	0	0
Total	39,939	86,376	286,230	741,117	21.11 GB

Requests by time



Hours	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth	Hours	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
00	99	189	3.51 MB	12	123	409	8.39 MB
01	42	111	1.71 MB	13	434	862	17.18 MB
02	57	90	1.56 MB	14	178	495	8.49 MB
03	33	54	1.21 MB	15	182	603	14.05 MB
04	59	60	1.39 MB	16	182	596	10.80 MB
05	33	91	1.45 MB	17	257	768	16.05 MB
06	127	351	6.08 MB	18	200	604	13.61 MB
07	212	566	11.49 MB	19	217	565	12.46 MB
08	259	716	12.64 MB	20	299	934	24.08 MB
09	249	718	15.34 MB	21	427	1,208	20.83 MB
10	274	870	17.32 MB	22	372	1,173	21.16 MB
11	224	652	12.74 MB	23	279	855	16.36 MB

Requests by location (top 5)

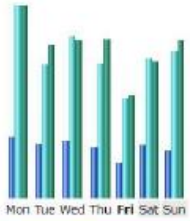
Locales	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Great Britain	3,503	11,536	227.31 MB
Russian Federation	318	401	9.15 MB
United States	264	583	11.34 MB
Sweden	225	227	6.36 MB
Germany	79	98	1.69 MB

Requests by duration

	Number of visits: 1,416 - Average: 165 s	Number of visits	Percent
0s-30s		1,144	80.7 %
30s-2mn		105	7.4 %
2mn-5mn		37	2.6 %
5mn-15mn		42	2.9 %
15mn-30mn		38	2.6 %
30mn-1h		38	2.6 %
1h+		6	0.4 %
Unknown		6	0.4 %



ramblers
Requests by day



Day	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Mon	752	2,346	44.67 MB
Tue	657	1,639	35.66 MB
Wed	693	1,981	36.49 MB
Thu	621	1,651	36.93 MB
Fri	433	1,218	23.88 MB
Sat	645	1,695	31.70 MB
Sun	584	1,791	36.67 MB

TAKE A HIKE

Requests by OS/browser

Operating Systems		Pages	Percent	Hits	Percent
Windows		1,609	33.3 %	4,120	30.4 %
iOS		1,465	30.4 %	4,176	30.8 %
Linux		1,322	27.4 %	4,057	29.9 %
Macintosh		208	5.9 %	1,031	7.6 %
Unknown		128	2.6 %	128	0.9 %
Unknown Linux system		6	0.1 %	28	0.2 %

Browsers		Grabber	Pages	Percent	Hits	Percent
Google Chrome	No	2,070	42.9 %	6,420	47.4 %	
Safari	No	1,909	32.5 %	4,513	33.3 %	
Opera	No	251	5.2 %	292	2.1 %	
Android browser (PDA/Phone browser)	No	218	4.5 %	220	1.6 %	
Edge	No	167	3.4 %	531	3.9 %	
MS Internet Explorer	No	145	3 %	561	4.1 %	
Firefox	No	144	2.9 %	386	2.8 %	
iPhone (PDA/Phone browser)	No	81	1.6 %	336	2.4 %	
Mozilla	No	81	1.6 %	147	1 %	
Unknown	?	57	1.1 %	57	0.4 %	
Others		36	0.7 %	77	0.5 %	

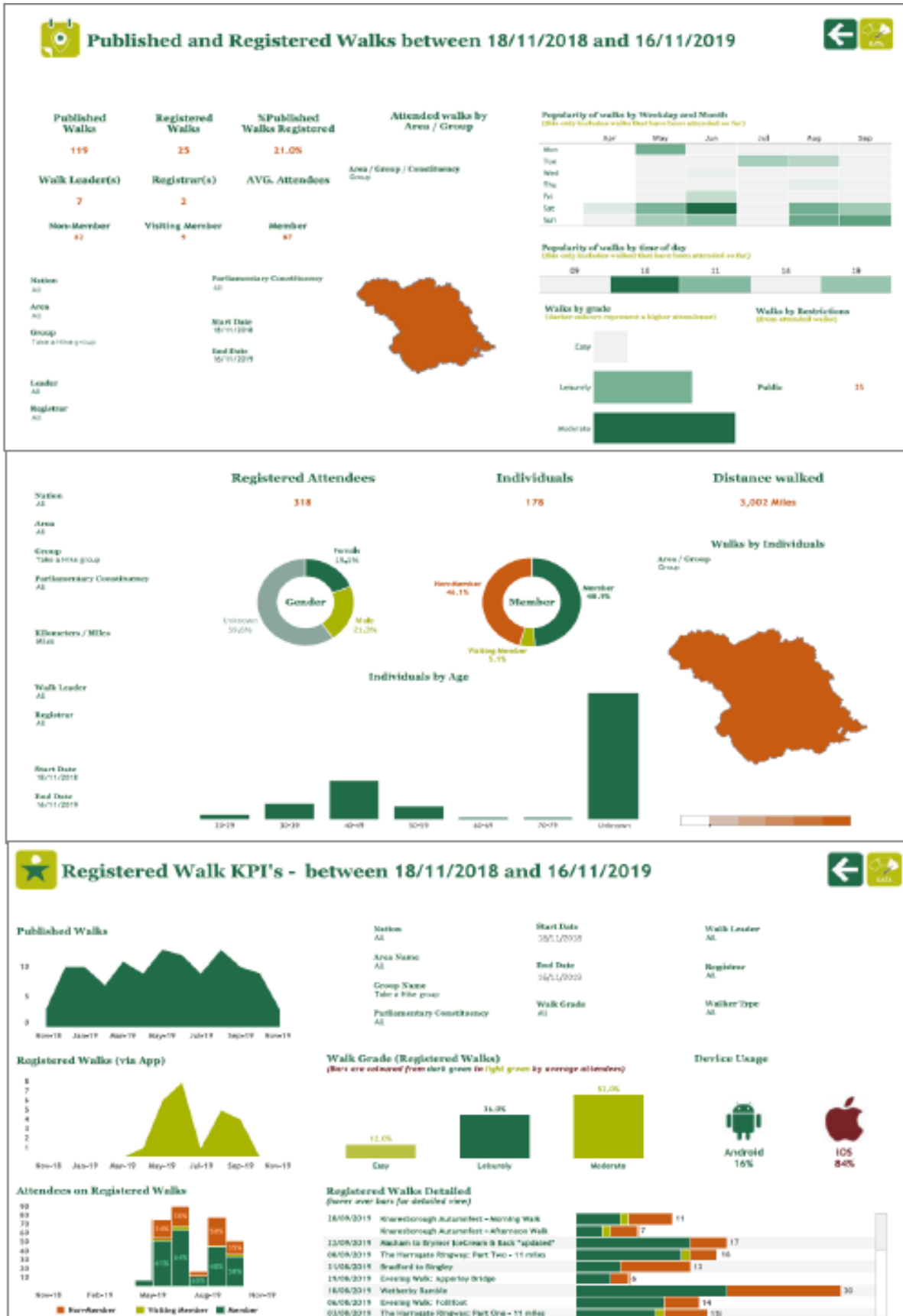
Origin	Pages	Percent	Hits	Percent
Direct address / Bookmark / Link in email...	1,190	75.8 %	1,207	74.1 %
Links from an Internet Search Engine - Full list	272	17.3 %	314	19.2 %
- Google .com	156 / 162			
- Google United Kingdom	58 / 58			
- Bing	44 / 80			
- Yahoo : uk.search.yahoo.com	4 / 4			
- DuckDuckGo	3 / 3			
- Yahoo : r.search.yahoo.com	2 / 2			
- Google Ireland	1 / 1			
- Google Spain	1 / 1			
- Ask catchall sites	1 / 1			
- Baidu	1 / 1			
- ecosia	1 / 1			
Links from an external page (other web sites except search engines) - Full list	107	6.8 %	107	6.5 %
- http://m.facebook.com	53		53	
- https://m.facebook.com	10		10	
- https://www.facebook.com	8		8	
- https://www.meetup.com/Take-A-Hike-Ramblers-West-Yorkshire/event...	6		6	
- http://www.hellfieldparishcouncil.org.uk	6		6	
- http://l.facebook.com/l.php	3		3	
- https://vauto.kz	3		3	
- https://getthefriendsyouwant.com	2		2	
- https://www.meetup.com/Take-A-Hike-Ramblers-West-Yorkshire/event...	2		2	
- http://www.bloghint.top/blog/9485543/show/	2		2	
- http://progressive-seo.com	2		2	
- https://www.ramblers.org.uk	2		2	
- https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/group-finder/areas/west-r...	1		1	
- https://www.meetup.com	1		1	
- https://www.economicvoice.com	1		1	
- https://l.facebook.com	1		1	
- http://www.leedsramblers.org.uk/other-rambler-groups.html	1		1	
- https://leeds-list.com/style/12-fun-ways-to-get-fit-in-leeds/	1		1	
- https://www.meetup.com/Take-A-Hike-Ramblers-West-Yorkshire/event...	1		1	
- https://www.hellfieldparishcouncil.org.uk	1		1	



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TAKE A HIKE

Ramblers Mobile App Data



Published Walks

Registered Walks (via App)

Walk Grade (Registered Walks)
(Bars are ordered from dark green to light green by average attendance)

Grade	%
Day	12.0%
Leisurely	34.0%
Moderate	51.0%

Attendees on Registered Walks

Registered Walks Detailed
(Hover over bars for detailed view)

Date	Walk Name	Attendees
18/11/2018	Kingsborough Autumnfest - Morning Walk	11
18/11/2018	Kingsborough Autumnfest - Afternoon Walk	7
12/01/2019	Alahan to Bryson (Coles & Back "updated")	17
08/01/2019	The Harrogate Ringway: Part Two - 11 miles	16
11/01/2019	Breaford to Ripley	13
15/01/2019	Evening Walk: Upperley bridge	16
18/01/2019	Wetherby Ramble	30
06/02/2019	Evening Walk: Holbeck	14
03/02/2019	The Harrogate Ringway: Part One - 11 miles	15

Device Usage

Android	16%
iOS	84%



Election of the Committee for 2020

Social Secretary: Katherine Dexter indicated that she was willing to jointly stand for the social secretary role.

All other committee members were happy to submit themselves for re-election to their existing positions and no other candidates came forward. Susan Wilkinson therefore suggested a single vote to indicate that the AGM was happy with all these appointments.

David Catchpole proposed this and Nikki Hall seconded it. The committee for 2019 was appointed as follows:

General Secretary:	Susan Wilkinson
Walks Secretary:	Steve Noble
Footpath Secretary:	Steve Fleming
Social Secretary:	Deirdre Maguire and Katherine Dexter
Membership Secretary:	Angela Bailey
Web Secretary:	Dave Husband

Member Representatives: Vicki Wilkinson and Andy Newing

David Catchpole thanked the committee for their good work in 2019.

Any Other Business

Steve Noble noted that Ramblers were being encouraged to walk on lesser used footpaths where possible in order to help ensure that they continue to be passable by trampling down undergrowth etc.

Steve Fleming encouraged all walk leaders to report problems whenever they came across them as this was vital to enable the footpath network to be maintained.

Susan Wilkinson thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution to the meeting. The meeting was closed with no fighting having occurred.

Author: Steve Fleming 17/11/2019