

RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION - MOORLAND GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2012

1. General. The Moorland Group has had another very productive year, in that we have again achieved a significant number of excellent walks as well as organizing some splendid social functions and a weekend away on the Isle of Wight.
2. Walks. Over the reporting period the group organized 58 walks. Of the 58 walks undertaken, 7 were over 15 miles and 48 were over 10 miles. Included in the Walks Programme was the Chagford Challenge on the 27th March, where 3 members and one dog took on the 30 mile walk, whilst another 5 members did the 21 mile walk. Ten members and 3 partners attended the group weekend away on the Isle of Wight over the period of 12th-19th May, where 4 walks totaling 47 miles, with 3500 feet of ascent, were completed. The 4 walks included routes from Shanklin to Newport, Chale to Shanklin, Alum Bay to Carisbrook via the Needles, and a circular tour from Yarmouth to Freshwater, and back to Yarmouth. On the 17th June the group undertook the annual Hilda Biscoe memorial walk, which was also a memorial walk for the late Bill Ransom. The route was a 20 mile walk across the South Moor, that included some favorite places that Bill enjoyed to visit, namely Burrator Dam, the Scout Hut, Ditsworthy Warren, Plym Ford, Black Lane Brook, Fox Tor, Peat Cot, and the Devonport Leat. Also included in the Walks Programme was the 40th Anniversary of the Long Distance Walkers Association on the 23rd September, where walks at 25, 16 and 10 miles were accomplished. Our winter programme of walks is now complete and we continue to have some interesting and challenging walks on offer over the next 6 months.
3. Membership. Overall, our group membership is down by 4 from this time last year. Our current membership stands at 97, which includes 2 Emeritus Members. Thanks to the sterling efforts of 2 members of our Group we now have a superb website (www.moorlandramblers.org.uk); and as a consequence of this, there has been a significant increase in awareness of the Group, which in turn, has led to several new members.
4. Finance. Following on from the massive £100-00 reduction in Group funding during the 09-10 FY, the Group has received a further reduction of £70-00 for the 12-13 FY. The Group annual expenditure is now exceeding income by approximately £15-00. However, part of the loss for this FY has been the 3-year registration for the Group website, as well as a lack of income from advertising. A sizeable saving has also been made now that most members can receive information by email rather than by post.
5. Committee Members. We continue to have great difficulty in finding a willing and able volunteer to take on the appointment of Footpaths Officer, thus this appointment continues to remain vacant. Those members currently filling the other committee appointments have kindly volunteered to undertake another term of service; for which the group is most grateful.
6. HSAW. Over the reporting period the Group has had to deal with one serious injury during a walk on Dartmoor. The Devon Air Ambulance and the Dartmoor Rescue Group were both tasked by the emergency services. The prompt and efficient action by other members within the Group, as well as having a suitable amount of First Aid kit, was instrumental in ensuring that the casualty was stabilized and treated exceedingly well; which significantly aided the casualty in making a swift and full recovery. All the appropriate documentation was completed and forwarded to Ramblers Central Office.
7. Social. The Annual Social Dinner was held at the Dandelion Cafe and Wine Bar at the Moorland Hotel, Haytor, on Friday 15th June. Another successful dinner was held at the Bargeman's Rest in Newport, for those members attending the weekend away on the Isle of Wight.

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