

# ***Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 24th July 2014 at SRSB, Mappin Street, Sheffield***

## ***1. Chairman***

***Christine welcomed everyone and gave thanks to Hilary and Steve for all their help and thanked Sue and Norman for organising the raffle. Christine also thanked Rob for the catering.***

## ***2. Apologies***

***Steve Brown and Ann Batty.***

## ***3. Minutes of the last AGM held on 12 July 2012***

***The minutes were accepted as a true record.***

## ***4. Matters Arising***

***No matters arising.***

## ***5. Chairman's Report***

***Christine gave an excellent report on the Group's activities over the last 12 months.***

***Walks: the group has been on 11 Wednesday walks, 11 Sunday walks and 11 Thursday walks including a Christmas lunch walk in December and another walk in January this year. Special thanks and praise must go to John Bater for his brilliant effort. Also our thanks go to David Cadet and Norman for organising the easier and shorter walks on Tuesdays. We have had 9 walks and these have proved very popular. In addition we have had a day trip to Saltaire with the Hearing Impaired Group and a walk on the wild side on Blacamoor with Sheffield***

***Wildlife Trust. If we add it all up - not far short of 300 miles.***

***Membership: currently we have 111 members 40 of whom are VIPs. 15 new people have joined since July last year but we have lost 10 names from our membership in the same period. We distribute leaflets to the main hospitals eye clinic, the SRSB and Social Services rehab teams. Our experience with recruitment is similar to that of other walking groups in Sheffield, people getting older and dropping out but not getting the same level of new recruits coming in.***

***Our guides are very important to us without them we would not be able to function and we cannot thank them enough. Other activities not strictly a group activity but we were pleased to celebrate George Napier's 90th birthday with a buffet supper provided by George back in January this year.***

***Two dry stone walling days were held one in October last year and one in May this year. Thanks to Jack and Ann Allen and to John for organising the participants.***

***Two guide awareness training events took place one in September 2013 and one in July 2014. Ten new guides have been trained thanks to Ann Rolf who delivers the training for us and to Gail Fagan for her invaluable assistance. We have 7 guides awaiting training.***

***Holidays: Everyone enjoyed the holiday in Grassington 2013 there were 18 participants including 6 VIPs. Llandudno is planned for September this year and we are well on the way to having a holiday organised for 2015 in the Isle of Man.***

***Fundraising: Ann Allen raised £400 from the Sheffield Half Marathon that never was! Thank you Ann. Also thanks to Eric for organising Scafell Pike 2014. We are busy training for this during the Summer. 25% of what we raise will be for our group the rest to SRSB. A vote of thanks to SRSB for all they do for us, they do a tremendous amount including letting us have room space, printing, distribution of our newsletter, database and much more.***

***Next year will possibly be Morecombe Bay - not for dawdlers!***

***Thanks to: Website - Our thanks to Christine Whittaker. Guides - Once again, our heartfelt thanks go to all our Guides.***

***Next Year - More guide training, more recruitment, hopefully a First Aid refresher and a Coach Ramble (Todmorden to Hebden Bridge).***

***6. Treasurer's Report Stan Wainwright, our Treasurer distributed copies of his Treasurer's Report showing the Group's Income and Expenditure Account together with the Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2014. The accounts were audited by Colin Newton on 26th June 2014. Stan gave thanks to Sue Pearson who handed over the books to Stan last year. The books he received from Sue were impeccable. Stan went through the report and asked if anyone had any question. No one had any questions therefore the report was accepted as a true record.***

***7. Election of Officers***

***All the posts on the Committee are to remain the same as last year as there were no other nominations made for***

**any of the posts.**

**Chair: Christine Hewitt**

**Vice Chair: Eric Andrews**

**Walks Planner and Co-ordinator: John Bater**

**Membership Secretary: Brian Hirst**

**Treasurer: Stan Wainwright**

**Social Secretary: Hilary Myers**

**Minutes Secretary: Pauline Bullivant**

**Newsletter Editor: Gail Fagan**

**Other Committee Members: David Cadet**

### **8. Holiday 2014 and 2015**

**Llandudno: Hilary distributed an information leaflet to all participants along with luggage labels. She particularly mentioned Guides asking them to please share your 'Buddy' with one of the other guides.**

**Isle of Man 7 September 2015 5 days - Hilary has sourced a hotel and a guest house and distributed a leaflet to those who wish to go on the holiday asking them to give their preference. At the end of the meeting it was decided that the guest house was the preferred option. Hilary needs confirmed numbers within the next two weeks along with £50 per person so that she can send off the deposit. Hilary answered queries during the course of the evening.**

### **9. Any other business**

**1. Blind Veterans We have had contact from the Blind Veterans. Tom joined this group who are eager to make ex-serviceman aware of the Blind Veterans. If anyone knows of any ex-serviceman in our group please make them aware of the Blind Veterans. They are putting our publicity leaflet in their Review Magazine.**

**2. Parachute Jump Betsie's parachute jump scheduled for July was cancelled due to bad weather, however it is**

***now scheduled for 3rd August. So far she has raised £614.11. Betsie is still looking for more sponsorship.***