

# Derby & South Derbyshire Group



## Committee Report – 2009/2010

### TREASURER

Due to the cut backs this year we received no Allowance from Area Council. The major expenditure this year was publishing the bi-annual Walks Programme booklet. Please see attached financial statement for further details.

### PROGRAMME

We published a full programme of walks over the year. Overall attendance has remained very good. Thanks to all of the leaders. The Group had a successful weekend in the Harrogate, thanks to Ray Whitfield and the leaders. Thanks again to Dot Morson and leaders for their work with the National Forest Walking Festival.

### FOOTPATH WORK

The Group Footpaths Sub-Committee, consisting of 19 Footpath wardens, had three committee meetings this year. We participated in Ease of Use/BVPI surveys for Derbyshire County Council last November and May.

- checked out and did minor maintenance work on the Bonnie Prince Charlie Walk in April.
- did a Group Survey of Paths around the Trusley, Osleston & Thurstaston area.
- were consulted on proposed Footpath Diversions - Church Broughton fp44,
- Dalbury Lees 26, Swadlincote 38, Aston-on-Trent 7, Weston-on-Trent 1, 6,
- 'Long Horse Bridge' Shardlow - The new bridge is expected to be opened in
- March 2011. The associated 'Multi User path' to be open by Autumn 2011.
- The National Forest Company is devising a 'National Forest Trail'
- South Derbyshire District Council is no longer an autonomous Highways Authority. This means that the County Council now deal with all Rights of Way work in our district.
- David Adkins, the Council Footpaths Officer for South Derbyshire was transferred to the County Council at Matlock, but resigned earlier this year.

### MEMBERSHIP

Some of the problems with the Membership System have continued this year. Last December Central Office changed how they counted the membership (leaving out those whose payment is pending) This is the main reason for a drop of membership of 10% from 550 to a current level of 498. Please report any membership issues to the committee.

### CHAIR'S REPORT

**One in a million.** We are sorry to have lost one of our most long standing, active members - Arthur Osborne. Arthur was an active member of D&S Derbyshire Group as well as being Chair of Area. His energy and enthusiasm were an inspiration to us all. He was always there to offer support and gave of his time generously. Sincere condolences to Joy and his family.

**First Class First Aid Course:** Many thanks to Sue Lloyd for arranging this. It certainly exceeded expectations. The course leader was Carl Makin, chief training officer for the St. John's Ambulance service, Derby.

**Publicity:** No special events of note this season. We really should do better because it looks as if D&S Derbyshire membership is falling. Ideas welcome.

**Coastal Path:** The first public consultation on England's new coastal path began this month (October). The area around Weymouth Bay is the first stretch of coast to be consulted on as part of Natural England's work on a new all-England coastal path; five more stretches will start next April.

**Defra White Paper:** Outlines how the new government is going to approach the natural environment. Doesn't mention how people are going to access their environment. Ministers plan to sell off 50% of Britain's forests.

**The Ramblers CEO** predicts that walking conditions in Britain will return to the deplorable state they were in during the 1960s, if drastic cuts are made to Local Authority rights of way budgets - predicting that well-known walking routes in places like Cornwall and the Peak District will fall into disrepair preventing people from walking in these popular locations.

**75th Baton Walk:** Our Wednesday walkers took the baton early August on Wyn Hill, Castleton.



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