

CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH AREA

The AGM will be preceded by a 5 mile walk starting at 10:30 from Wicken Fen National Nature Reserve, map/grid ref: 226/TL564705.

Annual General Meeting

14:00 Sunday 26 February 2012

The Wren Room, Wicken Fen National Nature Reserve

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Presentation by John Hughes, Vision Warden, on the future of Wicken Fen
3. Apologies for Absence
4. Minutes of 2010 AGM
5. Matters Arising
6. Area Report & Accounts
7. Election of Officers
8. Election of General Council Delegates
9. Discussion on Motions for General Council
10. Appointment of Auditors
11. Any Other Business



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ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2011

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Minutes of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Area AGM held at The Hub, Cambourne, on Saturday 26 Feb 2011

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman, Brian Foster, welcomed Robert Peel, our designated RA Trustee, and some 30 members of the RA.

2. Presentation by Robert Peel

Robert spoke of some of the concerns - the focus of RA; its' finances; its competence; and its transparency - which had led him and others to gain election as Trustees. 2010 had been a year of some achievements, with renewed focus on public rights of way, and the competence of the organisation. The financial situation appeared to have been stabilised, with better reserves ratio; the pension fund attended to; and the backlog of Gift Aid recouped.

For the immediate future the RA faces a number of threats: externally, cuts and the Big Society will cause problems; and internally, the need to recruit new members and retain existing ones is a prime concern. RA has to become more aware of why people join, and what members expect, informing too the wider public about the work which RA carries out for the general public.

Members enjoyed a wide ranging and informative discussion, and Robert's leadership was warmly appreciated.

3. Apologies for Absence

Matt Bullock, in Sweden for an important family birthday; Jill Tufnell, in New Zealand for a walking holiday, and safe; Christine Bickley, working; Bill Thompson, at an important Rugby match; Janet Cartwright; and Steve Horner.

4. Minutes of the 2010 AGM & Matters Arising

The minutes of the 2010 were approved on the proposal of Jacqui Homer, seconded by Janet Moreton

Mention was again made of the A14 crossing: thanks again expressed to Janet Davis at HQ for help and for the commitment to continue support if the plans resurfaced.

5. Area Report & Accounts

Brian Foster explained various matters in the accounts, which showed the reduction in expenditure achieved, without dramatic effect for members. The importance of the hard-copy Walks Programme was further emphasised.

The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Sheila Chambers, and seconded by Roger Moreton

Brian Foster intimated that this would be the last year he would serve in any of the multiple capacities he currently fulfilled, and he thought others might also step down in the near future. Roger Moreton expressed concern that the pool of people willing to take up Area posts was declining, and declining membership would not help to increase that pool. Neil Banks raised the issue of making members more aware of what RA did, for example in changes to the RoW network, and advocated increased use of email. This is difficult as although new members are asked for their email, existing members email addresses are not necessarily known.

Membership in the Area was down by about 50, to 1558

Neil Banks raised three important matters

We need clearer guidelines about what represents a path defect. Walk Cambridge had reported one or two a year, but what they deem as fine, is clearly not.

Ramblers Membership cost was seen as penalising the Walk Cambridge group as many are single; there are groups available leading weekly walks for an annual cost of £10 a year; many who are involved in Walk Cambridge are looking for a social group first, and campaign awareness potentially can come later. The membership of Walk Cambridge is fluid, due to people coming and going from the City.

Many in Walk Cambridge have never known recession and the severity of it has knocked many of the Group's members for six. Therefore, people with jobs (and mortgages) have to think about how best to maintain it. Ramblers unfortunately will not feature in many people's priorities.

6. Election of Officers

Post	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
President	Matthew Bullock	Brian Foster	David Elsom
Chairman	Brian Foster	David Elsom	Lisa Woodburn
Secretary	David Elsom	Neil Banks	Andy Mackie
Treasurer	Chris Morris	Neil Banks	Andy Mackie
Footpaths/ Countryside/ Access	Bill Thompson	Neil Banks	Andy Mackie
Membership Sec	Janet Cartwright	Neil Banks	Andy Mackie
Publicity Officer	Vacant		
Walks Prog. Co- ordinator	Brian Foster	Neil Banks	Andy Mackie

7. Election of General Council Delegates

Brian Foster: proposed by David Elsom, seconded by Neil Banks.

Charles Knowelden to be approached about attendance.

8. Discussion of Motions for General Council

It was agreed that we should not add to the list of motions for General Council: many others will express our concerns.

9. Election of Auditors

No Auditors were appointed.

10. Any Other Business

Brian thanked Janet and Roger for organising the morning walk, whilst David Elsom thanked Lisa Woodburn and members of the Cambridge Group for organising the AGM and baking a wonderful cake.

AREA REPORT

I have now completed 5 years as Area Chairman and for much of that time I've also undertaken the roles of Area Treasurer and Area Walks Programme Coordinator. Last year, I gave 12 months notice that I will be standing down from all of these posts and that it was time for someone else to take the helm. None of these posts take up too much time but when added together they become something of a burden. I've been fortunate in being retired and having the spare time to give to this voluntary work, however, I appreciate that it might have been too much of an undertaking for someone in full-time employment. I therefore think that it would be better if we could find a number of individuals who would be willing to take on one of these 3 key roles for the future. Thankfully, Chris Morris from the East Cambs Group has already indicated that he will take on the role of Area Treasurer. This is very much appreciated but the other two key roles still need to be filled and there will be no Area Walks Programme if we can't find a volunteer to undertake this task.

On the subjects of walking and volunteering, I must place on record my appreciation of our walks leaders and the other members who form your individual group committees. The younger walker groups seem to be thriving but the remaining 5 groups, largely made up of more mature walkers, seem to be suffering from a general lack of volunteers. Membership retention is a continuing problem, particularly in the current economically challenging times, but we do still seem to be attracting some new members. If our groups are to survive then we must seek additional publicity for our work and the walks that we provide. This, in turn, may then arrest the decline in membership and bring forward the new volunteers to undertake the vital work at Group and Area levels.

I will still be Chair of the Fenland Group and a member of their small band of walks leaders and I look forward to meeting other group members on some of their walks.

Brian Foster
Retiring Area Chairman

AREA CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2011

Income and Expenditure									
Income	Area	Cambs	Hunts	P'boro	Fenland	East Cambs	PYW	Walk Cambs	Total*
Funds from CO: Budget Funding	3250								3250
From Area: Other Income					250	200	50		500
Donations			79						79
Deposit Interest	1	3	1						5
Publication Sales		287	15						302
Advertising Sales	120								120
Holidays Administered								4984	4984
Other		145	25					46	216
Total*	3371	435	120	0	250	200	50	5030	9456
Expenditure									
Payments to Groups	500								500
Walks Programmes	2377	436			84	64	6		2967
Walks Related								8	8
Newsletters/Publicity	229	65					9	38	341
Publication/goods costs		34							34
Campaigns/Casework		206			123				329
Holidays Administered								3919	3919
Meetings (inc. AGM)	141	178	47	18	24	50			458
Admin				104	29	47	25		205
Other			23	5		81			109
Total ¹	3247	919	70	127	260	242	40	3965	8870
SURPLUS/DEFICIT*	124	-484	49	-127	-10	-41	10	1065	586
Funds									
Funds at 30.09.2010	1363	4855	716	210	51	77	85	164	7521
Funds at 30.09.2011	1487	3812	765	83	41	35	95	1229	7547
Assets									
Bank balances	1487	2453	765	83	114	67	95	1229	6293
Stocks		1359							1359
Liabilities					73	31			104
Net Assets ¹	1487	3812	765	83	41	35	95	1229	7547

- 1. Rounding of individual entries has produced minor inconsistencies with some totals.

Membership

Group	Sep 2011	Sep 2010	Sep 2009	Sep 2008	Sep 2007
Cambridge	580	634	711	720	705
Huntingdonshire	289	321	347	331	362
Peterborough	244	271	317	318	340
Fenland	97	112	121	108	118
East Cambs	95	123	140	122	122
P'boro Younger Walkers	52	44	42	47	52
Walk Cambridge	85	81	103	99	106
TOTAL*	1482	1589	1789	1754	1825

* Including affiliated clubs and unallocated members.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Brian Foster has decided that this will be his 5th and final year in the roles of Area Chairman, Area Treasurer and Area Walks Programme co-ordinator. He made this decision some 12 months ago so as to allow adequate time to find a successor(s) in these roles and to smooth the hand-over process.

If a successor(s) cannot be found, then this could result in problems with the management of the finances of Area/Groups and perhaps, more importantly, an inability to produce the co-ordinated walks programme booklets which are so highly valued by our walking members. All members are encouraged to consider taking on one or more of these roles. Brian will provide a hand-over/training to enable the new incumbents to take up their posts in early 2012 and will be available to lend a hand in the event of any problems arising during the initial period in office.

CAMBRIDGE GROUP REPORT

We have had another really good year for walking, especially as the weather has been so kind to us. We've mostly kept within a 16 mile radius from Cambridge, with the occasional foray north (March and Little Downham) and to the Breckland.

It has been a busy year with new developments beginning to take place – Clay Farm, Trumpington Meadows, North West Cambridge – all of which need an eye kept on them as the plans seem to change weekly! However, we are lucky to have had Paul Cutmore on the Committee for some months now and he has been most assiduous in watching what's going on.

And, at last, at last, the Guided Bus route is now open and it gives good opportunities for walks on and off it. Do look at Janet Moreton's Cantab Rambler No. 64 for Sept 2011, which gives lots of suggestions.

Once again I'd like to thank all those who have kept us going during the year. We are indebted to all our walk leaders who have provided such an enjoyable and varied programme, to Janet and Roger Moreton for their tireless (!) work making sure that our paths are in good order, to Charles Knowelden for keeping our finances in order and for servicing the web site so well, to Paul Cutmore, Jill Tuffnell, Harriet Snape, Bernard Hawes and last and certainly not least to David Elsom who has been such a delightful backbone of the Committee for so long. We are really sorry that he is retiring and we will miss his humour and good sense at our meetings.

But more help is still needed. We would very much welcome more bodies on our Committee. A place on the Committee with no particular post would give a newcomer a good idea of what's what.

Lisa Woodburn
Chair, Cambridge Group

Cambridge Group South Cambs - Footpath Secretaries Annual Report

Considering the recent reduction in CCC's RoW budget, we are impressed with the staff's continuing efforts to provide a good service. In spite of the cuts there have been some bridges renewed. However, there will be no money for waymarking, new stiles and replacement signposts, although a "signposting round" is presently in preparation. We are especially anxious about this, as we have always considered that statutory signs should be replaced as soon as possible, to avoid an incentive to vandalism. At this time of year, we are very grateful that several of our old byways now have seasonal Traffic Restriction Orders, many as confirmed last year. The gates are now shut, keeping the paths in usable condition for walkers and others throughout the muddy winter months. Council economies allowed only two grass cuts on field edge paths this year, but fortunately the drought kept the vegetation short. Reinstatement of cross field paths has been, in general, a little prompter this year than last, but there are still several regularly offending landowners.

Some new waymarking has been made in parishes with P3 funding. Additionally, we surveyed Horseheath, Balsham, West Wickham, and later Bourn, Caxton and Knapwell, and all were then waymarked by CCC's contractors. The long path from Bassingbourn across 7 fields to Abington Pigotts was also waymarked by CCC. Problems with poor Icknield Way waymarking at Willingham Green to Cricks Farm

were finally resolved in October. However - not all our efforts have yet to have an outcome - our site survey of problems of some of the 56 paths in Castle Camps nearly a year ago went into limbo, and we spent 4 days at the request of CCC surveying Hatley for waymarking, sent off our report months ago, but nothing has happened on the ground, so far! It should be noted that, with improved waymarking in some places, we have received more complaints about lack of waymarking elsewhere.

The problem of “lost reports” sent to CCC, so serious in 2009/10, has been largely solved by the introduction of a logging system. If you send CCC a problem, you should receive a CRN (Customer Report Number). For subsequent progress of this report, ring 01223 715558 in working hours, and you should get feedback. For details of parish path numbers, and other Definitive Map information, consult the internet on www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/countryside/access/findrightsofway.htm
We would appreciate copies of any communications.

There have been quite a large number of path orders, some at the consultation stage, some with the order made, and some finally confirmed.

Of the path creations, perhaps the most important addition to the network is the new very short path over a ditch, joining the Cambourne perimeter path to the existing Caxton fp 15, leading to the windmill. As part of a re-organisation “package”, there is a new path creation along the side of the Toft golf course, leading to the road near the Meridian stone.

Path diversions which have been confirmed include one affecting the width of Sawston fp 10 (Catley’s Walk). Eversden fp 3, and Orwell fps 10, 12 all underwent minor diversions as part of a single package. The diversion of Knapwell 5, due to the building of a small reservoir was confirmed. Part of Whaddon fp 9’s diversion onto the line in common use along the farm drive (part of the Harcamlow Way) was confirmed. The diversion of Graveley Footpath 10 is at last confirmed, signed, bridged and in use. Oakington bp 8, long dead-ended by the airfield boundary, has now been legally extinguished, lost in a housing estate.

We were delighted to have Hatley fp 13 opened up by CCC, after it had been blocked by a line of gardens for ca 40 years, in spite of our regular protests. Do use this path, signed on the road near the turning to East Hatley, and emerging through a 5-barred gate near St Dennis’ Church. Inevitably, some affected householders are now claiming it is not needed for public use.

Imminent useful diversions are for part of Horseheath fp7, to take it out of the yard of Sassex, and of part of Guilden Morden fp 44, which may even have been created under the eaves of an old barn!

Little Shelford PC put in a new roadside path along the Whittlesford road, and a short section of new footpath in the laypits at the end of Bradmore Lane.

No agreement could be reached in Linton between the RA, PC & landowners and a rationalisation scheme was dropped. We played a part at the Linton Windfarm inquiry, along with 2 parish councils, and wildlife interests and were glad to learn that the proposal to site turbines on the hill between Linton and Great Chesterford was thrown out. Major factors in the decision related to the flightpaths of aircraft, and rare bats.

Several of the Committee have been involved in consultations regarding the University's NW Cambridge site (part of which is in South Cambs). Since the scrapping of the A14 improvements, both ourselves and CCC staff had persisted in contacting the HA in seeking some sort of crossing for the Conington / Fen Drayton paths. We have established that the blocking crash barrier here is illegal.

At last the Guided Busway has started, giving access to new circuits, especially useful to those of us who are retired, as Senior Citizen bus passes may be used. Access to the paths in and around Fen Drayton's RSPB reserve is much enhanced, and there is a new crossing of the Gt Ouse.

Meanwhile, we are out on the paths of South Cambs several times per week. We carry secateurs, and regularly do minor trimming of brambles, blackthorn, wild rose etc encroaching on stiles, gates, bridges. We do think sometimes just 10 minutes work makes quite a big difference, and saves CCC time and money. Jill Tuffnell, meanwhile is starting to plan clearance parties - do contact her if interested. Thanks are due once again to Tim Miller (active especially in Over, Swavesey, Cottenham, Waterbeach etc); Phil & Sue Prigg (Newmarket RA) for help with Carlton and liaison with East Cambs, to several members active in their local parishes, and all the Committee and members-at-large who report site problems. More volunteers would be much appreciated.

Janet & Roger Moreton

PETERBOROUGH GROUP REPORT

Chairman's Report

Another year has passed us by in a whirl, especially for me undertaking new systems of work in my employment and this has impacted on me doing less for the ramblers, especially attending LAF meetings.

2011 was the celebration of forty years of the Peterborough Ramblers Branch, two groups, the bus walkers and the Peterborough group had separate walks and 23 met up for a celebration lunch at our old stomping ground the Nene Valley Railway, we were blessed with good weather and had a wonderful time.

We have had a varied walks programme this year and again attendances have been affected by the vagaries of the British weather and rising fuel costs.

Many thanks to people who have led the walks, the committee for supporting me also special thanks to Janet Cartwright for organising the coach trip to Derbyshire nice day shame about the weather!, also for organising the Christmas meal and the weekend away. A big thank you is need for the guys who have given up large swathes of their time to lead the bus walks week after week with some amazing number of participants, we don't ask for reward for doing these walks it is reward enough to see people happy, but the biggest compliment for me would be to see people join the Ramblers Association and help lead walks both conventional and the bus walks, the group is only as good as it's members.

Also Marja and Stan should be commended for taking on the task of sending the latest walks programmes out. I hoped you had self adhesive envelopes!

Rights of Way

Nothing contentious to report this time, a few minor diversions hopefully the bridge in Ferry Meadows will be replaced shortly, we were also hoping that the powers that be could have provided bus stops near Sacrewell Farm, it seems to be a forlorn hope. My attendance at the LAF meetings have been none existent this year due to work commitments

C Bickley

Bus Walks Report

Our weekly offering of 5-mile to 12-mile walks, travelling out by bus, usually gathers 20 to 25 participants. A core of regulars is enriched by others we see less often, and those who are returning after an absence. There are often 2 or 3 new faces to welcome, attracted by our posters in Queensgate bus station, and web

postings on “Peterborough Bus Times” and the City Council’s Travelchoice pages. These are potential new Ramblers members, of course.

Last Sunday, 13th November, there was standing room only, with 34 walkers (plus one guide dog), and the festive chatter edged at moments towards uproar. We do take our countryside seriously, though, and a sunny woodland glade made a perfect picnic spot. The walk was adventurous, through two national nature reserves, with agreement from Natural England. These places are a real treasure – the countryside around Peterborough deserves to be much better known.

It is perhaps the combination of our enthusiasm for biodiversity with the most sustainable way to get there that keeps people coming. And, naturally, the variety of people we attract. The two bus routes we normally use enable us to cover a geographically limited but enormously varied and attractive area, west from Peterborough, making the fullest possible use of the paths and quiet roads network. As always, we welcome and support all comers, including those who could provide suggestions and practical help to keep Peterborough Bus-Walks growing.

Rohan Wilson

Thursday Strollers

It has been a good year and numbers have remained fairly steady with an average of 24 on each walk. This year the cold frosty weather enticed walkers out and we had 36 at Exton in February and 39 at Helpston in early march, the most in 2011. The cost of fuel has deterred people from venturing further afield on certain walks. The Teddy Bears Picnic walk in Wakerley Woods had to be cancelled because of logging operations and the whole area was inaccessible to the public. We transferred the walk to Barrowden but no tea and cakes! We were all saddened at the death of Vera Rands, a stalwart of our group for 20 years. All of us miss her tasty bakewells. The Milton walk and supper was well attended even though the evening was damp and miserable after heavy rain, 35 people turned out and enjoyed the ramble and fish & chips. Again, can I thank Stan & Marja Dolby for preparing the walks programme and doing such a sterling job. Also a very big thank you to our large group of leaders who make the whole thing possible and so enjoyable.

Josie Murray

FENLAND GROUP REPORT

In common with many groups our numbers are still reducing, currently 97 from a high of 120, and attendance on some of the more distant walks has been reduced due to ever increasing fuel costs.

There isn't much to say about the group other than it keeps ticking over thanks to the contributions of the regular band of volunteers – more would be welcome! The group's 14th anniversary was celebrated this year in September with a short morning walk followed by a pub lunch Castle Rising. Thanks to Judy for organising this, yet again, and our appreciation of her efforts over the years as walks programme co-ordinator. Judy has given up this thankless task and we are still looking for someone to fill the gap.

Despite the overall fall in membership numbers, there has been an encouraging number of new members who have been welcomed on our walks.

Finally, we must mark the death of Barry Mallett on 25 Oct 2011. He will be sorely missed on our walks and our condolences go out to his wife & walking partner Karen who continues to be an active group member and walk leader.

Brian Foster

WALK CAMBRIDGE (20S AND 30S) GROUP REPORT

So that was 2011. There have been a number of different highlights this year. The weekends away took Walk Cambridge to a number of great locations. New Year was seen in with a trip to Somerset, with some great walks with a highlight on New Year's Eve a home cooked meal and festive drinks enjoyed by all. We've also been to the Peak District, Brecon Beacons, North Yorkshire Moors and Exmoor. The folk festival at the pub on the Saturday night in North Yorkshire was a particular highlight. Everyone in our group was encouraged to join in with the singing.

Socially the group continues to prosper particularly with the high attendance seen for the monthly pub meets. In the past year we've enjoyed events including Burns Night, Shakespeare Festival and concert performances. We end the year with the ever popular Christmas Party.

The walk programme is active as ever having a walk each week around various locations. On occasion we've managed a walk as far away as the Norfolk coast, Great Missenden and Dedham in Constable Country. However, the majority of walks take place close to home in Cambridgeshire, Essex, Suffolk and

Hertfordshire. The local walks typically attract the best attendances particularly in winter. Attendances can vary between around 20 odd people per walk - two walks have attracted over 40 members this year – amazing!!!

There are a few people from the committee standing down this year. I wish to highlight who have served the committee over a number of years. Steve Ives has diligently kept the Walk Cambridge updated for a couple of years. Steve & I had to work manically when the website was down early in 2010. Between the two of us, we managed to transfer to a new stable web hosting. Janice who has managed to oversee or organised over a dozen weekends away in less than 2 years. Garry is stepping as treasurer. The transition wasn't smooth when he started, after the previous incumbent was forced to move away due to enforced job relocation. He steadied the ship and going into 2011 managed the finances with a new born son.

In 2011, there have been a couple of weddings: Iain Simpson & Rowan Simpson and Steve Ives & Sue Ives.

Finally I'd like to thank the committee for all their work over the past year.

Neil.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE GROUP REPORT

It has been quite a good year. The group undertook a variety of walks throughout the twelve months, a holiday week, a long weekend away and barbeque that raised £70 for group funds.

We started the year (01/10/10) with 322 members and ended the year (01/10/11) with 283 members – during this period we gained 36 new members but lost 75. So during the year lost 39 members – unfortunately HQ commented this was a trend of the vast majority of groups last year. But nearly all our walks attracted decent numbers anything from eight to thirty plus. There was a very good selection of walk routes consisting of 50 weekend walks, 15 summer evening and two midweek morning ones, a long weekend in Cirencester and a holiday week on the Antrim Coast, N.I.

Our monthly short walks are still proving very popular and encourage people who have not walked before or who are not confident enough to try the longer walks. Concerning footpaths Hunts Ramblers continue to have regular meetings every year with the rights of way team from CCC covering a variety of issues including those that may be in the pipeline.

Huntingdon Ramblers also wrote to CCC to let them know of the valuable support we are receiving from the CCC rights of way team. Mr Alex Plant, Executive Director, Environment Services replied that he and other senior colleagues were very grateful for this feedback.

Last but not least after three years as 'Chairman' Sheila Chambers stepped down – to a committee member. Our many thanks for all her chair-work and a warm welcome to our brand new Chairman Charles Barker.

Derek Fryer

PETERBOROUGH YOUNGER WALKERS REPORT

The end of 2011 is quite significant for our Group as we have celebrated our 10th year of walking together. We had a number of special events to mark this including walking the Hadrian's Wall Path, and a 10th Anniversary meal. As it is fresh in our memory I should also like to mention our recent AGM where we had 29 attending, a new record, and at a new venue as we had outgrown the previous one!

Our walks over the last year, as summarised by our walks organiser Paul, comprised 39 official walks in 12 different counties totalling 305 miles and led by 20 different walk leaders. Also this year we had an increased number of mid-week summer evening walks.

The highlight this year was the 7 day walk along Hadrian's Wall Path from Wallsend to Bowness on Solway in July. An intrepid 12 completed the full distance with others coming along for part of it. Indeed on the middle day we had 20 happy walkers in rather wet weather. We also enjoyed conquering the Yorkshire 3 Peaks at Easter (albeit one a day) culminating in an ascent of Whernside in glorious sunshine with magnificent views.

The Group also enjoyed trips away at New Year to Ironbridge and The Stiperstones (a new area for us), a camping trip to the Peak District in May and a 10th anniversary weekend away in September to the Chilterns. Mention should also be made of our first night hike in October which we hope will be repeated. Among the varied social events the stand out was the Group's 10th anniversary meal at the Sweet Olives restaurant in Peterborough with members 'old' and new reluctant to leave at the end! As well as familiar events such as the annual BBQ and a visit to Peterborough Beerfest, we also indulged in an excellent Christmas meal at The Woodman, 10 pin bowling, a race night and the Group's first adventure golf tournament as well as regular pub nights and meals out.

The PYW golfers also enjoyed some fine summer evenings on local courses and the PYW quiz team, the Quizzy Rascals, had a number of outings. So to the year coming and already we are looking forward to New Year at Cromer, Easter in Dorset and a second trip to Northern Ireland, this time to conquer Slieve Donard.

Stephen Abbott
PYW Secretary

EAST CAMBS GROUP REPORT

There has been extensive advertising of walks locally. The group continues to be strong. We formed 13 years ago in 1998. Membership has declined just slightly. We would appreciate more walk leaders to help us and more male leaders would be an asset. Please contact us. Many walks have achieved a good attendance especially where they were at places of wider interest with an average of ten walkers throughout the year 2010/11. Our AGM was well attended and the voluntary Committee work hard to provide a walk programme of interest to as many walkers as possible with a varied mix of distance, terrain, difficulty and a variety of areas to walk both within East Cambridgeshire and sometimes further afield. The walks are on Saturdays or Sundays. Car sharing can sometimes be arranged through the walk leader.

We are a friendly group and welcome walkers from all ages, and to survive and thrive we need to see you on the walks. Take the challenge and fit in time for a walk and meet new friends and perhaps also see places you have not been to before and can only be accessed on foot. We sort the routes, you just have to turn up as per the advertised programme. We often have a drinks stop en route so you can choose to bring a hot drink, or just water, and a snack. Longer walks require a packed lunch. Please wear suitable clothing and walking boots. We look forward to seeing you.

Chris Morris
Chairman

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE AREA COUNCIL AT 31 DECEMBER 2011
(PRIOR TO AREA AGM)**

Officers:

President:	Matthew Bullock
Chairman:	Brian Foster, 01354 677537
Secretary:	David Elsom, 01223 842074
Treasurer:	Brian Foster, 01354 677537
Membership:	Janet Cartwright, 01778 344831
Footpath Officer/ Countryside Sec/ Access Officer:	Bill Thompson, 01487 812022
Publicity Officer:	Vacant

Area Executive Council - Group Representatives:

Cambridge:	David Elsom, 01223 842074
Walk Cambridge:	Neil Banks
East Cambs:	Chris Morris, 01353 723150
Fenland:	Brian Foster, 01354 677537
Huntingdonshire:	Adrian Kempster, 01487 815994
Peterborough:	Christine Bickley, 01733 321944
Peterborough Younger Walkers:	Roger Coulson, 0798 6208987

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