

Social Secretary's Report for 2016 AGM

Firstly a massive thankyou to everybody who has been involved in the organisation and running of events for ECR. There has been a great variety of events over the last 12 months and I'm hoping this will also be true of the next 12 months. If you have an idea for an event then please get in touch with me.

Just before my last report in 2015 we had the Hoedown but it was too late to be included. This only broke even because the band took a reduced fee. We need to think very carefully about the date as this coincided with bonfire weekend and also a big country dancing event. I, Tony and Ann have decided not to run one this year. Any thoughts on whether we should try again to run this in 2017 would be much appreciated.

Three Christmas meals were organised. Chesters on a Saturday with 38 people attending, a Mid-week meal at the Church House organised by David Gylee which was a sell out with 44 attending. A long walk meal was also organised by Peter and Georgie which was enjoyed by all those attending. Thanks to David, Georgie and Peter

Keith's sherry walk on 1st January went well with 35 attending. I think it was a bit muddy in places!!! Thanks to Melonie and Lorraine as well as their assistants.

The walk on the 20th January was a partnership walk with myself leading and Martin James, a Cheshire East Ranger. 7 members of the public joined 15 members of ECR.

The incident training course was full. We had 4 members attending from South Cheshire. Everybody seemed to enjoy it and found it very useful

February saw a Greek meal in Handforth being organised by Andy Davies. While the cuisine was different for some, it was much enjoyed by all the 20+ who attended. The staff were extremely efficient and pleasant. Some members of the group returned to the restaurant before the week was out. Well done and thanks Andy.

Thanks to Rosie Forth for organising the Grand National Sweep Stake. 21 attended the walk and 17 stayed to watch the race so an excellent turn out considering the race time was changed. Also thanks to Sue and Chris Munslow for organising the Crown Green Bowling session. Those who attended enjoyed it, with some returning for a second time.

John Handley's Ecology walk on 7th May was thoroughly enjoyable. The first one I've been on but it certainly won't be the last as it was so interesting. This was full with a waiting list. Thanks John.

The Derwentwater weekend was a great success despite overcooked vegetables!!. Everybody really enjoyed the walks even though the short walk on the Sunday had to be adapted. There were 52 in the hotel, 5 booked elsewhere and 2 in the area making a total of 59 who took part in the week end one way or another. Thanks to the leaders Bob and Pat Bland, Malcolm Combey, Sue and Chris Munslow, Roger Fielding, Graham Bothwell and Frank Gay. I must especially thank Malcolm who took over leading the short walk due to my concern that I would struggle due to knee problems, it took so much pressure off me. Thanks Malcolm and obviously a massive thank you to all the leaders.

In July Brian Griffiths organised a walk and trip on the Anderton Boat lift. There was a short walk before and after the boat lift. This was a brilliant day out with about 55 people attending; in fact we almost filled a boat. There were just 2 members of the public with us but I think they felt very welcome. Many thanks to Brian for organising it.

Ramble with a Ranger was well supported but did not attract the usual 4-7 from the public. I think this maybe because it was from Timbersbrook CP which is not easy to find. We now have several Ramblers who make every effort to attend as they enjoy Martin's chats and the information he imparts.

Three walks and a picnic: this worked really well and I was delighted that we managed to put on 3 walks. The picnic was superb and about 35 people attended. I have to say some people had gone to lots of trouble with their contributions. Thanks to Frank and John Edwards for their help and support.

The coach trip was full and went well, helped by the fact that the weather was so good. Thanks to Ann Thompson for organising and also the walk leaders.

The evening Walks and the fish and chip supper. These seem to have gone well with a group of regular attendees. The fish and chip supper was held on a wet evening but 12 people attended in spite of the weather. Thanks to Steve Hull and Nick Wild for organising.

As part of the National Walking Festival we were asked to put additional walks onto our programme. We decided to try out short 2-3 mile walks with no stiles. Lots of hard work was put into organising the 4 walks. Overall we had 15 people attending which I would class as a success. Thanks for all the hard work put in by the leaders, Sandra Edwards, Sue Munslow, Mike Bull and David Bates. Suitable walks are not that easy to find.

The walks organised to fit in with the Tour of Britain Cycle race on the 6th September went well and thanks to Brian Griffiths for organising this and leading the long walk as well as David Gylee and Dave Irving for leading the medium and short walks. 53 people attended, so a great success. Long 25, Medium 12, short 16.

The meal on 4th October organised by Andy went well with 18 enjoying a Thai meal in a swish and funky restaurant in Wilmslow; they were even treated to an ice cream dessert on the house.

I have just returned from the week in Cornwall organised by Steve Hull. Georgie and Peter Everson organised all the walks, getting local Cornwall ramblers to help out in what was a massive task. They ensured that there were 3 walks on each of the main walking days of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday as well as putting on long walks on the Monday and Friday and helping me reccie my walk on the Sunday. Finally they organised a meal for us all on the Thursday. Thank you so much Georgie and Peter for all the hard work which went into making this such an enjoyable week. The amazing

weather was the icing on the cake. Thanks also to Steve for being the initiator and for the overall planning.

Brian Richardson's talk on 28th October went really well with over 45 people in attendance. It was fascinating to hear about his trip which took him 5 years to complete. The photography was brilliant and there were many questions for Brian to answer. Thanks also to Helen who organised the purchase of a projector and screen for the group. A massive thank you to both Brian and Helen and to all those who helped with the organisation of the actual evening.

Finally a huge thank you to everybody who has been involved in these many activities. There is no point in organising an event if it is not supported so thanks to all but a special thank you to the hard working organisers.

I'm hoping that people will come forward at the AGM with suggestions for different activities in the programme. At the moment we do not have any coach trips organised for next year so please think about organising one. There is help at hand with how to go about the planning etc.

Jane