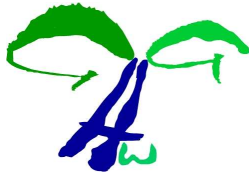


Goring Gap Health Walks



Notes from the Leaders Meeting held on Thursday 8th February 2007

1. **Apologies**, Dawn, Charles, Ken, Clive, Simon, Jo, Sally, Jacqueline, Val, Peter, Helen, Stephanie, Simon
2. **Reports from group leaders:**
 - a. **Tuesday 10:00 B/C** - The group now regularly has over 40 walkers, and it can sometimes be difficult to plan routes in advance as the walkers decide whether to go as a B or C level according to the route. It was agreed that there were sufficient leaders available to cope and that the regular leaders would discuss the best way to organise the routes and add in loops to cope with the 'nomads'.
 - b. **Friday 10:00 B** - Andrew had no issues to report.
 - c. **Saturday 09:00 A** - Group numbers are regularly in the upper 30's, but again the ratio of leaders is always sufficient to cope with events though the group does get very spread out by the end of the walk. The decision not to split the group into A&B walks has worked out well.
 - d. **Sunday 10:00 B** - No report.
It is expected that numbers will drop in March when more people start taking holidays.
3. **End of year figures.** - Bernard has sent the front page of the main register spreadsheet to SODC. There was a modest increase over 2005, which was a surprise as numbers were significantly down at the end of 2005 and early 2006. 2007 is off to a flying start, boosted we think, by the recent GGN articles. Several pdf's of statistics can now be found on the Leaders Page and will be regularly updated.
4. **Timetable**
 - a. It was agreed to add a Monday evening 19:00 walk starting on 2nd April. A number of leaders have agreed to help get this new group going.
 - b. The weekday leaders will sound out the need for a Thursday walk, both amongst walkers and leaders. There is no plan to add this walk to the published timetable, but if there is demand, and a number of committed leaders, a decision as to when to add it will be made at the next meeting.
5. **Social Events**
 - a. **Barn Dance 27th January.** This was an outstanding success and eventually produced a modest profit of £160. Bernard will take some money for stationery and web site expenses and bank the remainder. He is trying to find out from Veronica, how much money there is in the account but has not received a reply.
 - b. **Bluebell Walks.** It was agreed that there will be just two walks to the Well Barn woods above Warren Farm, and that there would be other to Wroxhills Plantation and the Holies. John will keep an eye on the Holies and let Bernard know when he feels that the Bells will be at their best.



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- c. **Bell Walks.** 16th June and 18th August. Leaders to be recruited nearer to the dates.
 - d. **Summer BBQ.** It was agreed not to hold this as a whole group event in 2007. Instead the weekday group will investigate other ideas for a social gathering. The Saturday/Wednesday groups will organise their own event.
 - e. **Leaders Social.** An evening walk to a local pub will be organised in the summer, just for leaders.
6. **SODC Meeting 5th February.** Stephanie had reported that:
- a. The Wallingford Group may fold as one of the two leaders has died and the remaining leader has lost heart.
 - b. The Primary Care Trust funding has been withdrawn but SODC have decided to retain Anne Lister as the County Walk Coordinator. Presumably SODC will now provide funds for advertising and training, but we await confirmation.
 - c. Steering group meetings will now be held quarterly. The first will be on 14th May.
 - d. A reminder that all accidents are to be reported, supported by an accident form.
 - e. It was also suggested that walkers be encouraged to use walking poles. GGHW leaders do not agree as they are a hazard when used within a large group. Although we walk in an undulating area, the terrain is not extreme enough to require a pole for stability.
 - f. Sonning Common expressed their thanks to Bernard for training some more leaders.
7. **Training.** The First Aid course on 29th January was very well run, good fun and very informative. There is a First Aid course on 26th February. There are places available. Clive McCann will attend prior to Leader Training. If anybody else would like a place, Bernard can arrange.
8. **Missing Registrations.** Several regular walkers without a form on file have now registered. There are a few more to catch.
9. **WHI Accreditation.** Bernard outlined the scheme, details can be found on www.whi.org.uk. It was agreed that it should not be pursued.
10. **2007 Meeting dates**
- a. Thursday 10th May
 - b. Thursday 9th August
 - c. Thursday 8th November