

AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

Fleckney Walking Club
Footloose DLNS
Glenfield Parish Council
Leicestershire Footpath Assoc.
Leicester CHA
Market Harborough R.C
Mitra Milan Rambling Group
Oadby Hill Walking Club
Over The Hill
The Grasshoppers R.C.
Kibworth Rambling Club

WEBSITE

**Your new Area website has
now been activated**

Visit

<http://www.leicsra.org.uk/>

**Apart from personal details,
copies of the Write of Way
will now be displayed there
together with lots of other
useful information and links**

**The opinions expressed are
not necessarily those of the
organisation or the Area
Officers.**

**Unattributed material
is by the Editor**

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VACANCY

**Our Secretary has to step down
at the next AGM. Senior officers
are only allowed to serve three
continuous years**

**Mark has done an excellent job
and wishes to keep involved in
some capacity but we now
need somebody else to take
on this role. With electronic
communications it is actually a
fairly light role but it does keep
you at the heart of things**

**Mark will be happy to explain
what he does if you are at all
interested.**

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Being in office only since January I am on an intense learning curve although very fortunate to have many experienced Ramblers stalwarts to put me on the right path both from within the committee and the local areas. John Howells the previous chairman has been a great help and is now proving a very efficient treasurer.

Roy Denney and Stan Warren have also passed on a lot of their encyclopedic knowledge and experience with regards to footpath management and legislation. Unfortunately I have lost Stan on the committee which was a body blow but he is still around and active on the footpath front and willing to offer his pearls of wisdom. However we still have Martin James proving an adequate replacement on local and area matters.

I have just returned from two days in London Head Office along with five other area chairs. We met all the H.Q. team and they outlined their various roles to assist the local areas where possible. I personally feel they need to be more involved on a localised basis and get away from their ivory tower occasionally. One aspect that pleased me during my visit was that after speaking to the other areas and London personnel our Leicester Area compares very well which does not make us perfect but operating in the right direction.

We had the General Council at York late March which was interesting but proved nothing to me. Lots of talk and a bit of internal politics but nothing came out to excite me. Our motion to take on Network Rail did not get an airing due to running out of time on other matters which I was biased to feel less important. This was very disappointing, especially after all the hard work preparing our presentation by Roy, Stan and Martin, with our local Network Rail footpath problems at Barrow and Little Bowden. All is not lost but it would be better if we had the full weight of the Ramblers Association legal team behind us.

However let us look forward to a sparkling summer period with lots of good walking. From our local Hinckley area we have groups walking the Leicestershire and also the Pennine Ways. We wish them all the best and hope the weather is kind to them.

The Big Pathwatch exercise is behind us and according to Head office was successful. We can now enjoy even more the wonderful Leicestershire countryside.

I hope to visit most local groups over the year although I may have to save some of these till next term.

So enjoy your walking and the British summer and I look forward to meeting you sometime in the not too distant future.

Tony Smith