

Chairman's Report 2014

Good evening and welcome to our 2014 group AGM.

As usual, I must start by thanking all who have contributed to the successful running of the group since last year. So, a big thanks to all our committee members, walk leaders, working party volunteers and, last but not least, Lisa for making sure we've dined well throughout the year.

It has been great to finally get going on helping with footpath maintenance. We are gradually learning new skills and Les has been spending our Central Office grant on tools as our requirements have become apparent. Volunteering is going to become increasingly important as the National Park's budget becomes more and more constrained. Les and I attended a meeting at Helmsley with the park big wigs last Friday when we were informed that since 2010, the parks budget has been cut by 44%.

As far as I know, all the group's officers are willing to stand again. However, there is room on the committee for new members should anybody be able and willing. The commitment is not onerous as we only meet once every two months and the meetings themselves are made a pleasure by our kind hosts who supply a superior selection of drinks, biscuit and crisps.