

Grampian Area Annual Report 2011

Chairman's Report 2011

Headlines

Ramblers Scotland is now in a more positive position. The Devolution Working Party was established in response to strong representation on the severity and handling of the financial cuts in Scotland and Wales. In early 2011, it agreed greater autonomy for Ramblers Scotland. The Board of Trustees met in Scotland in September 2011 at Glenmore Lodge. In addition, there has been an increase in the team at the Scottish office. Different pockets of funding enabled the appointment of staff to take forward projects such as the Medal Routes Project linked to the Commonwealth Games.

Area Meetings

The Committee continues to meet and we have been represented at various gatherings across the area. Anne MacDonald and I are members of the SCEC (Scottish Council Executive Committee) and we have links with the Board of Trustees so we are therefore well informed on what is happening around the country.

Our appreciation

I want to express my thanks to all who support the ongoing work of the Ramblers in Scotland either by coming out regularly on walks or just by remaining members. I also take this opportunity to thank the Area and Group Committee members for the work they do voluntarily as without this effort we could not survive.

Alison Mitchell, Chairman



Treasurer's Report

Ramblers – Grampian Area (Charity number 1093577)

Audited statement of accounts for funds administered solely by Grampian Area for period 1 October 2010 to 30 September 2011

2009/10 £		2010/11 £
	INCOME	
1,600	Area Entitlement	1,500
3	Bank Interest	3
<u>1,603</u>		<u>1,503</u>
	EXPENDITURE	
1,060	Group Financing	628
13	Subscriptions & Donations	98
324	Meetings (including Annual General Meeting)	563
80	Travel Expenses & Subsistence	126
<u>1,477</u>		<u>1,415</u>
	BALANCE SHEET	
2,147	Balance at 1 October	2,273
126	(Deficit)/Surplus for Year	88
<u>2,273</u>	Balance at 30 September	<u>2,361</u>

For the year to 30 September 2011, the Area made a surplus of £88. Within Subscriptions and Donations, we renewed our subscriptions to Friends of Durris Forest and Aberdeen Mountain Rescue and made a donation to Scottish Natural Heritage. Other than group funding, the main expenditure of the Area continued to be the costs associated with printing the Annual Report and holding the Annual General meeting (AGM).

In response to the Ramblers financial difficulties identified in 2009, areas and groups were asked to make a 25% reduction in 2009/10 budgets. Since that time the budget process is such that Central Office calculates a basic allocation for each group linked with membership. This is intended to cover the most minimum of costs such as committee meetings and the AGM. Where groups feel they need additional funding to cover specific projects then a case can be made as part of the budget process and requires groups to complete a budget application. For 2010/11 groups in Grampian did not express a wish to submit a budget and therefore the Area paid each group the basic allocation.

Our approved budget was £1,500 for 2010/11 (2009/10 £1,600) including group funding of £628 based on the basic allocation - Aberdeen £230, Inverurie £113, Moray £162 and Stonehaven £123.

For 2011/12, having further considered our running costs and bank balance we reduced our budget application and requested £1,000 from Central Office. A key reduction in 2011/12 costs will arise from the committee's decision to publish the Annual Report through the website rather than mail out paper copies.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Group Treasurers and the Auditors for their help and support by providing audited accounts and budgets which enabled me to make the necessary returns for the Area.

Anne MacDonald, Area Treasurer

Membership Secretary's Report

The following table shows Grampian Area membership figures for the reporting period ending 30 September 2011.

Group	2010	2011
Aberdeen	216	216
Stonehaven	70	66
Inverurie	48	39
Moray	123	126
Rural	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
Total	<u>472</u>	<u>463</u>

Figures have remained fairly stable when compared with 2010. In the previous year we were noticing the impact of the economic climate and ongoing teething problems with the implementation of the new membership system at Central Office. It is therefore pleasing to see a stable membership base and we hope for growth in 2012.

Brian Allan, Area Membership Secretary

Group Reports

Aberdeen

Our walks programme continued to be varied and walks were well attended. A longer walk with an early start was included in the summer programme for the first time in several years and was also well attended. The website continued to be the main way for attracting new members and is also the main route for booking a place on coach outings. We continue to try and attract new walk leaders to reduce the demands on our 'faithful' leaders. Our week away in May and June and August weekends were enjoyed by all. Find us at www.aberdeenramblers.org.uk

David Fenlon

Inverurie

The group did quite well during 2011 with walks being well attended by the regulars. A joint walk was held with Moray Ramblers which was enjoyed by all.

Dawn Tuckwood

Moray

There have been 17 walks on the main programme during the year with a total of 581 walkers attending. This is an average attendance of 34 walkers. There have also 12 short walks with an average of 16 attending per walk. The short walks programme has now been running for 5 years and continues to feed walkers into the main walks programme. We are also on the web at www.morayramblers.org.uk

Olga Foran

Stonehaven

The group has been proactive in encouraging new members and more volunteer leaders on walks. On longer days, 2 walks have been included in the programme and in several cases these were led by new leaders with support from Fiona Hill (group secretary). Regular articles were placed in the 'Leader' about the previous walk and the next walk and posters with current walks appear throughout the town. The September weekend was in Fife with walks on the coast and in the Lomond Hills.

Iain Forbes

Area Officers

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Secretary/Treasurer: Anne MacDonald, 64 Grant Road, Banchory, AB31 5UU
(Mob. 07884 020599)

Membership Secretary:

Brian Allan, 15 Davidson Gardens, Northfield, Aberdeen, AB16 7QX
(Tel. 01224 690881) Mob. 07751 673091 (Email b.j.allan@btinternet.com)

Committee

Aberdeen Group - Bert Grant;

Moray Group - Olga Foran and Lynn Miller; (From November 2011, Jo Jones)

Inverurie Group – Dawn Tuckwood;

Stonehaven Group - Iain Forbes and Fiona Hill