

## Trafford Ramblers Group

First I must thank our long serving Chair of our group Angela Hilton who retired from the role last year. She has been our Chair from the first few months of our existence since 2010. Thank you Angela for all your hard work, and a dedicated walk leader and supporter of new walk leaders.

And another big thank you to Sheila Kabbani our membership secretary from the first year of RTG who is retiring from that role but will continue to organise and lead our Saturday Strollers walks. Also Kas Kabbani our Treasurer from the very early days who is also retiring from that role. They have both been major contributors to the RTG.

Fortunately we have willing volunteer replacements for these rolls in Lesley Morris and Frances Bennet.

Also Judith Hunter will be stepping down from her role as RTG secretary. Thank you Judith for the many hours of dedicated support for the group. Jan Moore has volunteered to take on this role.

The last year for us, as for all Ramblers groups has been a challenging one which our members and particularly walk leaders have responded to brilliantly. We have continued to have regular Thursday walks and Saturday walks always complying with the government guidelines on limits of travel and limits on group numbers. Since restrictions were lifted in July we have also often had walks on Mondays and alternative walks on Thursdays. Some of these have been Pop Up walks added at short notice on our website. Recently an expansion of our popular Saturday stroller walks has started with a short and a longer walk on offer. There has been as a result of a significant increase in active members as well as an increase in our membership.

We have also started a Newsletter, during the time of significant restrictions, published irregularly, which is available on our website with contributions from our members. We also have a Facebook page on which many of our walks pictures are viewed. We have two WhatsApp groups. One is for communication about walks, the other is a social group for comments and pictures about almost anything of interest to members.

To celebrate ten years of the Ramblers Trafford Group we commissioned shirts with our Trafford ramblers logo, which have been sold to members. This year we have produced a calendar for 2022 with photographs from our walks which will be on sale to members in October

We have enjoyed a short Trafford Ramblers Walking Festival over three days in September with a meal on the third day. This was postponed from last year which was intended to be a celebration of our tenth anniversary.

We are now looking forward to an exciting next year of group walks, being aware that the covid 19 pandemic is likely to continue, but outdoor exercise is one of the best ways of improving both physical and mental health.

Richard Longbottom

Chair Ramblers Trafford Group