

Trafford Ramblers AGM 2021

Walks Coordinator report

On 2 December 2020 government restrictions limited us to walking in Greater Manchester. That situation lasted for only four weeks before all group walks were suspended, and it was April 2021 before group walks were allowed to restart.

Despite the difficulties and uncertainties, walkers were enthusiastic to restart, and thanks to the walks leaders we have had a full programme of walks since April. Attendance has been high, with approaching 30 walkers on some days.

By the end of the year:

- 15 walks leaders will have led 82 walks.
- There has been a walk every Thursday and sometimes an alternative walk on the same day.
- 21 Monday walks were led by Andy, Neil and Rob and have proved popular.
- Pop-up walks have featured; there were five walks on a Tuesday and one on a Sunday.
- As well as the usual country walks we have had walks featuring industrial heritage, a wildflower walk in Derbyshire, a selection of walks for the 10+1 celebrations, and a mince pie walk before Christmas.
- We have walked in Derbyshire, Lancashire, North Wales, Staffordshire, Yorkshire, Cheshire and Greater Manchester.

Although no longer mandatory, most walks leaders continue to take bookings. A small number of leaders continue to limit numbers and the committee supports their choice to do so.

Ramblers now require walks leaders to provide a written risk assessment and to retain copies for three years. From 1 December this is a new section on the walks proposal form, which leaders are asked to complete with reference to the Ramblers risk assessment guidance.

Without the walks leaders there would be no walks programme, so thank you very much to the leaders for making it possible to offer such a wide variety and number of walks in 2021 despite the uncertainty of the ever-changing Covid situation.

Rosie Hurley

Saturday Strollers report

The fortnightly Saturday Strolls restarted in early April 2021 as Covid restrictions were lifted. They have proved to be very popular averaging over 25 walkers per stroll. Pre-booking has helped us to provide safe, manageable walks by splitting the walkers into up to three groups on popular routes.

In addition to the usual short strolls a monthly longer walk of 6-7 miles has also been offered. Again, uptake has been good with up to 15 walkers preferring the longer walk each time one has been available.

Going forward a range of local strolls will continue to be offered on alternate Saturdays with pre-booking required. We will again use multiple leaders if the number of walkers remain high.

Sheila Kabbani

November 2021