

## Trafford Ramblers

### Walks Coordinator report November 2020

This year has been a challenging year for everyone with the Coronavirus Pandemic.

For the first few months until late March we had a varied programme of walks on Thursdays, with occasional alternative walks and additional walks which were published in 3 month blocks with a list of 17 walk leaders contributing their time and enthusiasm supporting this.

In March we had our first lock down with all ramblers activity cancelled although many of our leaders were receiving walks.

In July we commenced a limited walks programme but with a maximum of 6 people on each walk, often with 2 walks on a Thursday. The Ramblers published guidelines to be followed on how we should make them relatively Covid safe for leaders and participants, and also on the risk assessment which was now required for insurance purposes.

In August the number of participants could be increased to a maximum of 30 with the above guidelines for Ramblers groups as they were recognised as organised outdoor activity events. The committee recommended leaders should limit numbers, with a maximum of 12.

These continued into October until Greater Manchester was put into Tier 3, which meant that we could only organise walks within the Greater Manchester area. This changed again on November the 5<sup>th</sup> when England was put into a second lockdown and all organised outdoor activity was cancelled except on a one to one basis.

The Saturday stroller programme is managed by Sheila Kabbani, and has coped with all the same problems and continues to be the most appreciated part of Trafford Ramblers with continued popularity from a dedicated following.

I would like to thank all the walk leaders over the last 12 months for their contribution under difficult circumstances, the constant changes, and their continued support. Many of us are in the higher risk age range and although relatively fit can also have other risk factors. It is always a personal decision on the risk and benefits of leading walks but it is greatly appreciated by everyone for the mental and physical health benefits for all involved.

I am retiring as the walks coordinator at this AGM and wish my successor all the best in taking over and I will support them as much as I can.

Richard Longbottom

Walks Coordinator