

## **Trafford Ramblers AGM 2024**

### **Walks report November 2023 to October 2024**

As always, thank you to all the walk leaders who make our programme of walks possible. This year we have welcomed three new walk leaders, Jacqui K, Richard M and Lyn D. In the past year 19 walk leaders have led 82 weekday, Saturday and evening walks, and walks on our trips to the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales. In addition three walk leaders, Lesley, Sheila and Kas, have led 27 Saturday Strolls. We have walked in Greater Manchester, Derbyshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, North Wales, Yorkshire and Cumbria, though unusually not in Staffordshire.

#### **Weekday walkers report:**

- In the past year at least one walk was offered each Thursday, plus an alternative easier walk if necessary.
- The number of walks offered was higher than the previous year, though the number of walks on alternative days to Thursdays has continued to decline.
- Attendances on weekday walks was lower than the previous year but overall attendances were higher when Saturday, evening, Lake District and Yorkshire Dales walks are included.
- Six Saturday walks were trialled but it was decided there was insufficient demand to continue. Weekend walks are available with other Greater Manchester groups and with Area, including public transport based walks.
- Three four-mile evening walks proved to be popular and will be continued next year between May and September. These walks could potentially be longer than four miles and further afield depending on day length.
- A successful four days of walks around Keswick was held in May, organised by Kath T and Phill and supported by several walk leaders. We will be returning to Keswick in 2025 and probably exploring walks a little further from Keswick in the north Lakes.
- In October we had a successful two days' walking with an overnight stay in the Yorkshire Dales based at Grassington. This was a lower key event than the Lake District trip, and enabled the group to walk further afield than on a regular Thursday walk. It is hoped to repeat this event next year at a different location.

It would be good to have more walk leaders for both leisurely and moderate walks. Please have a chat with a committee member if you are interested and we will help and support you.

*Rosie Hurley, Walks Coordinator*

#### **Saturday Strolls report:**

The fortnightly Saturday Strolls led by Lesley, Sheila and Kas have continued to be very popular with the group.

The smallest group this year had 17 walkers at Styal - a route with a reputation for being steep in places. The largest stroll had 41 walkers and was a memorial walk for June Mabon using footpaths around Urmston which June had been instrumental in keeping accessible. June's husband Ian joined us on the stroll and also in a toast to June part way through the walk.

Pre-booking has helped to simplify arrangements for the strolls. When numbers are high the group can be split between the available leaders. All walkers are emailed to confirm their initial booking and all receive an email the day before the stroll detailing any final arrangements. This has been particularly helpful when routes have had to be changed at short notice due to livestock etc.

In July the strollers enjoyed a group summer lunch at the Grasslands Snowdrop Cafe. The Christmas walk and lunch has been booked and will again be at The Barn Owl near Lymm.

*Sheila Kabbani, Strolls Leader*