ANNUAL REPORT for AGM on 7TH NOVEMBER 2022

This year has seen the Group returning to planning activities and organising meetings very much as it did pre-Covid.

In March, the committee took the decision to have a six-month summer programme which would be printed and sent to all members for the period May to September. It was felt that such a booklet showing the range of walks offered by the Group was tangible evidence for members of their connection to the Group, though they may not walk with us.

This meant a very tight schedule so, in the absence of a Rambles Officer, offers of walks by walk leaders were collated by Walk Co-ordinators for the various days and grades of walk the Group organises and passed on to the Publications Officer. Walk leaders rose to the occasion and it was pleasing to see an almost full programme of walks being sent out to members in early May. The feedback suggested that the reappearance of the booklet of walks was much appreciated by members and so we have continued with a winter programme which has recently been finalised and sent to the printers. The work has been very much a team effort: thanks must go to Jan Aplin, Leighton Hill, Gwyn Lewis and Barry Southwell acting as co-ordinators and inspiring leaders to put forward walks for each programme and to Andrew Price, the Publications Officer, for putting it all together ready for the printers. Thanks also to Kathryn Bennett, Membership Secretary, for organising the mail-out and Mike Kohnstamm, Webmaster, for sorting out the uploading of the information onto the website and The Ramblers walks' database. Thanks also to all the walk leaders who have stepped forward to offer walks under the new ways of working that have been created due to the Covid pandemic.

Summer also saw the restart of coach trips with three being organised with trips to Knighton, Llandovery and Avebury – many thanks to Karen Walters who has taken on the job of organising these events. All have proved successful with each being sold-out despite the increase in price of tickets and the need for them to be bought in advance. Hopefully it augers well for next year when ticket prices will again jump because of the increase in fuel costs. Also in early summer, a long delayed ten-day backpacking holiday around the Channel Islands finally took place; many thanks must go to Roma Whiteley for her work in ensuring it not only came about but was such a success.

The committee still feels that a Rambles Officer is necessary to co-ordinate all the work needed to produce a programme that has at least half-a-dozen walks per week and we will looking for someone to take on the role at the next AGM.

Like other groups we have taken the decision to abandon making the start point of the Wednesday and Sunday walks a Cardiff location where car-sharing can be sorted out. This means that car-sharing is now organised on an as-hoc basis and, although this is not helpful for those without their own transport, it was clear that there was no enthusiasm from walk leaders for a return to the old arrangements. So far, how to put potential walkers in contact with potential car drivers in a group of over 600 members spread across Cardiff has defeated the committee.

An issue of WalkTalk, the Group's bi-annual newsletter, was sent out with the summer programme but contributions were sparse, so the decision was taken to discontinue it for the time being. Many thanks must go to Gillian Masters who has edited the newsletter since 2005.

Membership of the Group remained surprisingly stable during the pandemic and it still continues at the same level, fluctuating around 650.

Finally, 2023 will see the 40th anniversary of the Group and the committee is looking at ways to celebrate this milestone and it is hoped that a discussion to be held at the AGM will help in making a decision.

Diane Davies