

West London Ramblers Group – Chair's Report 2022

The first part of the year was once again overshadowed by rising Covid numbers and we had a couple of outdoor social gatherings around the Christmas period. But eventually the situation normalised and we were able to offer our regular walks programme of 3 walks per week most weeks. We also had a couple of shorter walks that ended with a meal in a pub.

We also organised a number of well supported holidays throughout the year. In May a group of us spent a couple of days in Portsmouth, followed by a short walking holiday in Oxfordshire in June. Then we had the very successful week in the lake district at the end of September. The walks on all these holidays were provided by our own walk leaders. Thanks go to those and the organisers of these holidays.

We developed an expenses policy for walk leaders, but so far nobody has claimed for anything like travel expenses on recces. A number of walk leaders are using the group subscription to OS maps we bought. We organised a navigation course with a follow up training session and are planning to lay on another course in the new year as this one was oversubscribed. We also organised our own First Aid course. All this activity might explain why we are doing well and have attracted a number of new leaders.

Membership is around 500 and has been similar to previous years. The number of affiliates is up (50) and the number of those not providing an email address is slowly going down (86). As before we did send an invitation to the AGM to those by post and there are 9 who receive the bimonthly programme by post.

Looking forward we are planning three walking holidays in 2023. Faversham in Kent in April, an HF group holiday in June and a 6-day holiday to the Isle of Wight in September.

My thanks go to all the committee members for their continued work over the year and to Chris Parnell for sending out the emails to members.

Monika