

West London Ramblers Group – Chair's Report 2023

It's been a good year. We managed to offer a full walking programme. The Elizabeth Line has given us a new range of locations to start our walks from. However, the rail strikes played havoc with our programme and many walks had to be replaced and rescheduled. Once again, we supported the London Blind Walkers with a couple of walks.

The highpoints of the year were the holidays. In particular the walking holiday to Faversham in Kent in April and the holiday to the Isle of Wight in September were very popular. By providing our own walk leaders we managed to keep the cost down. A group of us treated ourselves to an HF holiday in the Yorkshire Dales in June where we had an amazing mud free time during one of the heat waves.

We survived the introduction of the new website - with lots of 'teething' trouble - and most of our walk leaders got used to the new walks manager. The new table format of the printable bimonthly programme doesn't seem to have caused any problems.

Membership in early October was 516 which is similar to previous years. This includes 41 affiliates and the number of those not providing an email address is slowly going down (80). As before we did send an invitation to the AGM to those by post and there are 9 who receive the programme by post.

We had a well-supported publicity stall at the Brentford Festival in September to attract new members. We offered business cards with our web address on rather than sample programmes. We also had a joint publicity stall with Richmond Ramblers at the Celebrating the River Crane Festival in Twickenham in October.

Looking forward we are planning more walking holidays in 2024. A long weekend in Woodbridge in Suffolk in May and a few days in the Elan Valley in Wales 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