



MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT WALKERS (MR50)

COMMITTEE MEETING

03 April 2024, 19.00 Foundry Project Manchester

AGENDA AND REPORTS

Agenda item	Requested by	Time
1. Welcome	OCF/MVDZ	
2. Apologies	JB, ST	
3. Acceptance of minutes from February meeting. Vote to pass February minutes. CRT to put on FB.	All	
4. Update on T Shirts	OCF	
5. Badge Update, 20 for 20 & future management of sales	OCF	
6. Dog walker policy	OCF / MVDZ / RP	
7. Feedback from members	OCF / MVDZ	
8. Women walk leading update	MVDZ	
9. Update on 20th anniversary celebration Autumn/winter party	KR	
10. Collaboration with Lanx hiking boots	KR	
11. Ramblers volunteering with footpath maintenance	KR	
12. Review of actions from the last meeting.	All	
13. AOB	ALL	

Summary of actions from last meeting	Update 03/04/2024
ACTION 1: Automatic email for non members signing up for walks including FAQs. Ongoing action no updates.	
ACTION 2: Code of Conduct. Concerns raised by members who want policy and complaints procedure to be advertised more widely. Action: MVDZ to draft message to group with KR.	
ACTION 3: 20 th anniversary flags. Action: OCF to draft up some designs and get some costings. Update: OCF has got approx. costings for an anniversary flag at circa £40 per flag. Not ordered. yet but exploring option to use at 20 th anniversary events.	
ACTION 4: Grow your membership. Action: MVSZ to provide figures to the group.	
ACTION 5: New proposed ramblers walk leader policy. Action: TW to look into new guidance and report back. Update: Ellie attended training on this. CRT has circulated to committee regarding AP11. Likely to be substantial changes, but the concept of a centralized document/ policy will remain. No further update.	

REPORTS

Chair (Oli and Marieke)

Dear MADwalkers,

The past few months have seen some excellent winter and early spring walking. We have seen some massive turnouts on various walks – a massive thank you to all walk leaders and backmarkers (and middle markers) for managing large groups and keeping us all out happy and hiking. We are now heading into some weeks with plenty of walks to choose from, including some evening walks in the light.

As you'll have seen on the calendar, the 20th anniversary sub-committee has been busy organising a number of events, keep your eye on the calendar and join us in celebrating the group's 20 years of bringing magnificent walks and roaring socials as well as epic weekends away.

February also saw the first women walk leader conversations social, with one of the aims of the group this year being making walk leading more accessible and identifying what types of support and/or training we can put in place. Thank you to all women walk leaders who attended and shared their wealth of experience in walk leading, as well as to those interested in walk leading who joined to find out more. Stay tuned for more on walk leading in the coming months.

This time of year also marks the start of nesting season – so for those who bring friendly dogs on one of our walks, please remember they need to be kept on a short lead on all open access land at this time of year.

Happy hiking,
Marieke and Oli
Co-chairs



Secretary (Camilla)

Thanks for Luke for joining our February meeting this time and sharing his knowledge from volunteering at Ramblers HQ. Any members are welcome to get in touch to join one of our meetings. It has been good to see so many new members out on walks over the past few months. It has been relatively quiet on the enquiries front so there isn't much else to report.

Walks Co Ordinator (James, Ellie and Sarah)

Since the last report there have been 29 walks (19 Saturday, 9 Sunday, 1 Midweek) led or co-led by 25 walk leaders. Alessandro Serra co-led a walk for the first time on 17th February.

Please keep the walks coming in, especially for Sundays. The calendar is filling up nicely, even quite well in advance, but more are always welcome! Please also keep dropping us a note of back markers.

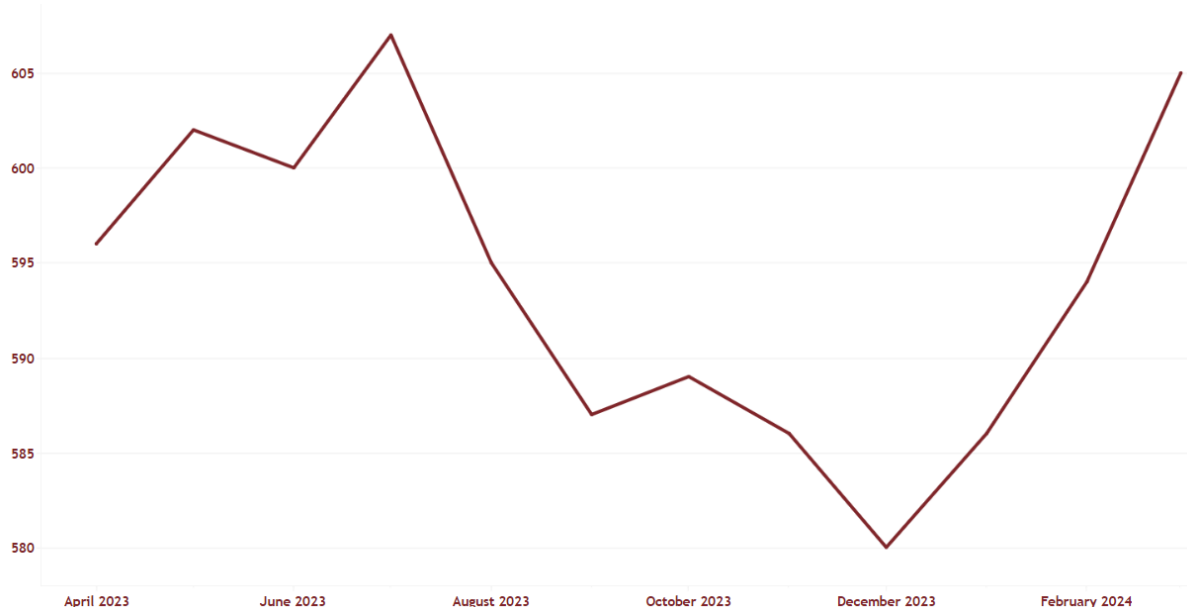
With fresh train strikes announced and engineering works planned, more car based, or tram and bus walks may be a better option for walk options in affected areas.

Radios: we have five identical pairs to lend to walk leaders. If you believe any are not working as they should (e.g. short battery life) or have any other questions about them, please get in touch.

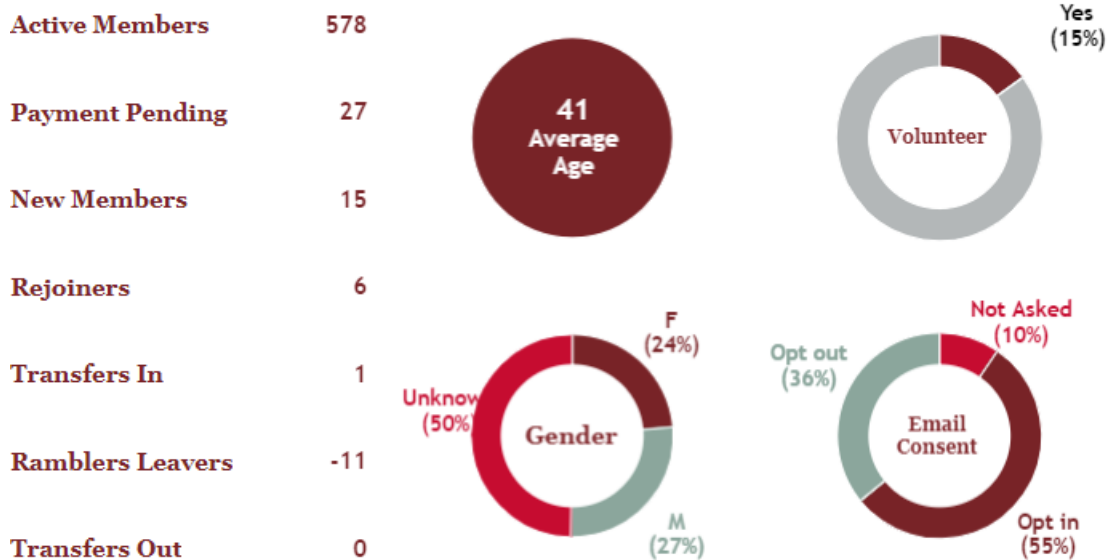
Many thanks,
Ellie Schenk
James Brett
Sarah Kendall

Membership Secretary (Alice)

Hi all, It's great to see an increase in members with a total of 605 – this isn't a massive increase from our low point of 580 in Dec 2023 but a match for our last highest membership number in July 2023 and hopefully we can continue to see this trend continue!



MAD March Stats



Interestingly, Ramblers have made some dashboard changes which allow you to compare yourself to other groups – the stats below are for Sheffield 20s & 30s walkers and I thought it was interesting to see that whilst we're on a larger scale there is so much similarity!

Sheffield 20s & 30s March Stats

Active Members 206

Payment Pending 5

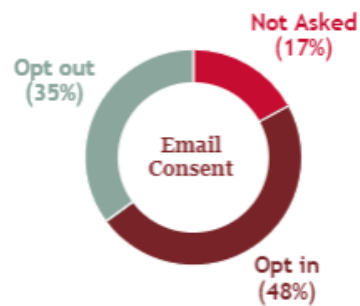
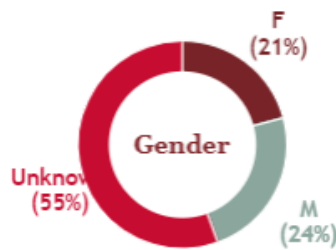
New Members 13

Rejoiners 1

Transfers In 0

Leavers -7

Transfers Out 0



Since the last meeting, the comms to potential new members have been updated to include information about Ramblers charitable aims to sell this as another benefit of joining. I've also made members aware that I will be clearing the facebook group of non-members. I've been delayed getting this done due to a busy period at work but now have some time set aside to action.

During the next monthly round of comms that I do for new walkers/members, I'll be adding a standard task of sending a reminder to anybody that has a membership that is about to expire as a reminder to renew.

Treasurer (Alex)

This is correct as of 28th March. No major issues. The white columns give the overall profit/loss for a weekend or social. We have a lot of active Weekends that haven't concluded yet, hence the high bank account figure.

Main & Self-funded account transactions 01/10/2023-30/09/2024			Profit/Loss in this Financial Year			Profit
Event	Ref	Description	Main	Self funded	Total	M
Opening Balance (01/10/2023)			316.33	7,116.08	7,432.41	
INCURRED						
Weekends	WK11	Claxby Weekend		-473.97	-473.97	
	WK12	Shap - 2024		820.00	820.00	
	WK13	Belfast Weekend		-2,603.04	-2,603.04	
	WK14	Chiltern Weekend		-181.70	-181.70	
	NY23	New Year 2023		696.51	696.51	
	WK15	Robin Hood's Bay Weekend		1,240.00	1,240.00	
	WK16	North Norfolk Coast		558.00	558.00	
	WK17	Gunernsey		700.20	700.20	
	WK18	Anglesey		652.00	652.00	
	WK20	Bala Weekend		2,664.00	2,664.00	
Socials	AR23	Air raid shelter		-160.00	-160.00	
	Jan Pizza	Nells Pizza		0.00	0.00	
	Kinder	Easter Social		17.00	17.00	
	MK24	Karaoke		30.00	30.00	
	Roast	Sunday Roast Social		60.00	60.00	
	SW23	Santa Walk 2023		0.01	0.01	
Miscellaneous	Prize	AGM Prizes		-172.99	-172.99	
	BADGES 24	Badges (2024 Onwards)		-343.36	-343.36	
	Error	Torbay - Incorrect Payment		42.00	42.00	
	BADGES	Badges (2020-24)		8.55	8.55	
Ramblers funds	RACH	Income from Ramblers	330.80		330.80	1,
	AGM	AGM 2023 cost	-530.75		-530.75	-1,
	Meetings	Room Hires	-59.00		-59.00	
	Meetup	Meetup Subs	-35.00		-35.00	-
Closing Balance - Overall			22.38	10,669.29	10,691.67	



Social Secretary (Katie)

Over the last couple of months we've had a huge influx of social submissions and have already hosted a massive 31 socials in 2024 (that's an average of 2.5 socials a week!). It's been discussed amongst the 20th anniversary sub-committee that due to lots of other big events taking place over summer that the summer bbq might not be worthwhile this year, but I'm looking at the possibility of a big celebration event in October instead. Thanks to suggestions from members we're also looking at hosting volunteering socials and online socials - the former to be discussed at the April committee meeting.

Communications And Social Media (Catherine and Sam)

On Instagram, through February and March, we had a net gain of 54 followers, taking our total to 2239. The majority of our followers are still in the target age range with 48.5% age 25-34 and 36.3% age 35-44. The number of unique accounts reached was 1646. In this time we've shared 7 posts and 6 stories.

On Facebook, for the 28 days 5th March – 1st April we had a net gain of 17 followers, taking the total to 5342. Our following on Facebook is slightly older with 45% age 35-44, 35 % age 25-34, and 12% 45-54. Our reach over the 28 days was 5338. The posts on Facebook mirrored that on Instagram.

For the Facebook members page, currently there are 451 members which is up from 435 at the last report. In the last 28 days there have been 87 posts (similar to previous report), 179 comments and 970 reactions. We've been continuing to share weekly updates on planned walks.

Whilst I can't make it to the meeting I do have a couple of agenda points I'd like to get feedback on.

First the idea of updating the meet the members. I think it could be good to share a series of member stories on socials, perhaps tying in somehow with 20 years? Would be interested to know the committee's thoughts.

Also, I'd like to pilot the use of Whatsapp as another communication channel. Not a chat where everyone can see numbers, but either a community or a channel. Intention being I and other selected admins use the announcements function to share photo's and weekly walk summaries the same way we do on Instagram and the public Facebook page (so minimal extra work and I'm happy to put it in). With both of these phone numbers should not be visible. A pilot would be useful though, and again I can ask for volunteers through the Facebook members page. If we did expand it could be advertised through email to new and existing members. Keen to try it though so members without social media can still see what we've been up to, and also get any urgent announcements.

If you could please update me on what the committee thinks it would be much appreciated.

Many thanks,
Sam

Webmaster (Desi, Arthur and Rob)

After some help from James who demonstrated the process for managing walks, we fixed a longstanding issue with signup forms not being linked to walks. This was affecting most walks and being corrected manually on an



ad-hoc basis. This was occurring due to a daily quota limit on Google's scripting system. We have developed a workaround and this seems to have resolved the issues without impacting any functionality.

Similarly, we fixed an issue whereby old forms were not always being removed in line with our data retention rules.

We added a '20th Anniversary' logo to the walks, socials and weekends page. This is activated automatically whenever the word 'anniversary' is used in the description of an event.

By request of the committee, we also added the 'no dogs' option to walks. This is under review and may be modified further.

We fixed a bug where linking to any of our walks/socials/weekends pages from Facebook and possibly other social media sites would take visitors to empty pages titled 'Archive'. If you've been put off linking to the site on our social media for this reason, hopefully this improves things for you. Going forward, we will explore the ability to link to individual events which we don't have today.

We encountered one new type of fault, which was draft/submitted walks appearing blank in the walk management pages if the author didn't select one of the available locations. We have only seen this from one walk leader so far, but if you do encounter this, the entered data is still retained and we can fix it by request. We may be able to put in preventative measures when we have time.

During all of these improvements, we had a couple of brief technical outages, which were obscured by caching. We fixed these as soon as we became aware, so if you see something wrong with the website, please do bring it to someone's attention.

Weekends Co Ordinator

Many thanks to Owain for organising the DIY weekend to Torbay. It was a fun, action packed weekend. There are 8 weekends on the calendar including the following in the next couple of months:

- Shap, 19 - 21 April, Tom Whitehead and Karolina Zoramskyte
- Pembrokeshire DIY, 3 - 6 May, Enfys Bosworth
- Yorkshire Three Peaks DIY, 10 - 12 May, Stephen Jones and Sarah Kendall

The Shap, Robin Hoods Bay, Guernsey, Anglesey and Bala weekends are either very nearly full or very actually full. There are still spaces on the Norfolk weekend and some promotion is planned.