

Ramblers Volunteer Section Round-Up 6th August 2010 - 3rd September 2010



This round-up contains the text of all items posted on the Ramblers Web site Volunteer Section since the 3rd September. Some of the items had deadlines which have now passed. These are included for interest only.

In some items as originally posted, web site hyperlinks gave access to more information. Where possible, we have included the full linked text. Where this is not possible we have provided the full link location.

Contents:

General - 1 Support and Events - 7 Membership - 9

In August we had 223 footpath successes reported to us by Groups and Areas all over the UK you can add yours and help us push the total for September up by filling in the Path Form at www.ramblers.org.uk/rights_of_way/successes.htm.

General

Tom's Blog September 2010

Thoughts and reflections from the Chief Executive (News - posted 27th August 2010)

Dear volunteer,

We're living through interesting times...with public spending cuts of about 25% planned (the biggest cuts ever attempted by a western government), I am dreading what this might mean for the future of our public path network. The Ramblers [Dead End for Walkers?](#) campaign was launched on 8th July, highlighting the risks to public paths from threatened cuts in local authority spending. The first wave of the campaign highlights 20 local authorities where there are threatened budget cuts, or massive backlogs in clearing paths. More information is available on the website, and in particular, we need to know about any planned cuts in your local area. We have our work cut out over the next year in arguing why the network of public paths is so crucial for public health, local economies and - quite frankly - a crucial part of the British heritage.

On the campaign launch day, I visited Cornwall to walk two footpaths with Graham Ronan, Area Chair, and Jack Burling, one of Cornwall's Footpath Secretaries, as well as council rights of way staff.

In the morning, after only walking a few yards along a footpath in St. Issey (which was not sign-posted) we found our way blocked by dumped rubbish over which we had to clamber. We encountered several deliberate attempts to unofficially divert the footpath, or block the way.

At the end of our footpath, the signpost from the main road pointed straight into a hedge! Any casual walker would have given up within the first five minutes. Our afternoon walk along a footpath, selected at random in St. Ervan, was even worse; there was basically no route through at all. We were faced with barbed wire and thicket, which we hacked our way through with scythes and secateurs.

It is such a shame that Cornish paths are in this state. We were walking through some of the most beautiful countryside in Britain; on some of the worst footpaths in Britain. Walking is a low cost leisure activity, available to almost anyone. It is proven to help both physical and mental wellbeing - which is particularly important in these difficult financial times, as it is free and requires no special equipment, training or gym or club memberships. It is also the most popular active recreation in England and Wales.

I do wish to emphasise how impressed I was with the dedication and professionalism of the enforcement staff, who I met on the day; and there is some great co-operation taking place between the council and the Ramblers. But the distinct lack of funding for rights of way, coupled with the introduction of a notoriously unworkable path maintenance prioritisation scheme (Gold, Silver and Bronze grading), has resulted in many Cornish paths falling into disrepair.

I've written to all Cornish councillors telling them about the experience, and I've booked a return visit next February, to walk the same paths, when I hope to see big improvements.

Public Path Successes

Please keep your public path successes coming in: we have recorded over 500 public path successes so far this year - that means paths that have been unblocked, opened, or newly recorded **thanks to the Ramblers**. And they've still coming in thick and fast . For example, in August 2009 one of our members in East Cornwall, Peter Antony, found a gate on Footpath 12 in Calstock Parish tied up

with barbed wire. The problem was reported to Cornwall Council. The blocked gate has now been replaced with a kissing gate and a larger gate. The larger gate is wired up but the kissing gate maintains pedestrian access. The photo here shows the new gates, with the old gate standing beside them to the right. Thanks to Bob Saunders, the Rights of Way Officer for Caradon Ramblers, for taking action and reporting the success to us. We need to know your successes too - we can use the successes to help with member recruitment, campaigning and fundraising! Please keep them coming in – Go to http://www.ramblers.org.uk/rights_of_way/successes.htm for the report form.

Get Walking, Keep Walking – going from strength to strength

Get Walking, Keep Walking, our lottery-funded scheme operating in London, Manchester, Birmingham, and Sheffield, has almost reached a milestone of 8,000 people encouraged to take up walking. In the past three months, there have been more people taking part in walks than in the previous six, and it's been our busiest period ever. We've also distributed nearly 50,000 Get Walking 'DIY' packs to people who aren't doing much physical exercise. These people won't necessarily go on to join the Ramblers, but as a charity, we're helping to spread the positive message about walking. Much of this is achieved by Ramblers volunteers – leading walks, inspiring people, devising routes, and uploading them to the website. Thank you. Have a look at the [Get Walking website](http://www.getwalking.org/) at <http://www.getwalking.org/> and see what you think.

Unsung Hero Group of the Month

This month, my 'unsung hero' award goes to a whole Group: the Lancashire Weekend Walkers, aimed at people in their 40s and 50s – and officially the fastest growing Group in the Ramblers.

At the start of the year, it had 8 members – it now has 52, almost all of whom are new to the Ramblers (in other words, they haven't transferred from other Groups). It shows there is a massive "untapped market" for us of people new to walking who are looking for companionship and exercise. The group was formed last year, but was slow to start. They had a bit of a re-launch this year, and used Christmas as a boost. Their walks are 7-12 miles, plus lots of easier, shorter walks in the first three months because many of the new members were new to walking. They also have monthly new member nights at a pub, and between Feb and April, they were regularly getting 25 people turning up for these.

They produce a full colour weekly pdf newsletter, which is emailed around to members and contacts – and they have 150-160 people on their potential member list – they're now working on converting these people into full membership.

They don't have a large formal committee – three people, and lots of others helping out.

A big source of new members has been through having a leaflet stand in the local Cotswolds store, where they have had membership leaflets just behind the chip-and-pin machines (apparently the best place for them) – this has brought in lots of new members. They put all the walks on Walks Finder, and they direct their members to this through the weekly e-bulletin. How's your Group doing? If you need ideas for boosting membership, take a look at this '[ideas page](#)', at

<http://www.ramblers.org.uk/Volunteer/VolunteerFeatures/Top+Tips+for+Increasing+Group+Membership+More+Ideas.htm>, from other groups.

Anyway, keep enjoying the summer, thank you, and I hope to see many of you at the Autumn special meetings with Ramblers Chair, Rodney Whittaker, and myself.

PS Don't forget the closing date for the [75th anniversary volunteer awards](#) is the end of September. We've had 30 nominations so far. Keep them coming!

Summary of the Board of Trustees meeting 24th July 2010

Read a summary of the decisions taken at the Board of Trustees meeting in July (News - posted 16th August 2010)

The Board of Trustees met at Central Office on Saturday 24th July. We welcomed our youngest-ever attendee - two-month old Danny Montgomery, the new son of trustee Eleanor Harris. Unlike others present, he was permitted to sleep quietly through most of the meeting.

Announcements

The Board noted with sadness the death of Geoff Stevenson, who was a member of the Ramblers for over 50 years. He was an active member of the former Southern Area of the Ramblers and joined the Inner London Area committee when it was set up over 20 years ago.

Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive reported that the Ramblers has been shortlisted for Third Sector Magazine's Excellence Awards, in the category of 'brand development'. We will find out in the Autumn if we have won.

He reported on the launch of our '[Dead End for Walkers?](#)' campaign, highlighting the risks to public paths from threatened cuts in local authority spending. This is part of our major campaigning theme for the coming year, and we are highlighting 20 local authorities where there are threatened budget cuts or massive backlogs in clearing paths. He reported on the intensive lobbying which was taking place around both rights of way funding, and funding for coastal access.

The Chief Executive reported that [Get Walking Day](#) took place in May, with about 50% more walks than last year. About 6,000 special '£1 membership forms' were sent to participating groups, of which 2,000 were handed out, and about 700 returned. All of these have signed up by direct debit, and we hope they will renew next year. In 2011, Get Walking Day will be on 15th May, and Groups are being urged to start organising walks so that it will be the biggest ever.

He said that more than 32,000 '[Get Walking, Keep Walking](#)' packs have been distributed to people new to walking (beating our target for the project), and that we'll soon be producing an on-line version. This project is paid for by the Big Lottery Fund and the Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust.

He reported that the Senior Management Team had, during July, been telephoning Groups that are reporting either membership growth or membership shrinkage, to ask why they thought this was happening. He reported that the Groups were generally pleased to receive the calls, and to share information. Whilst there was no 'single issue' which he could say to groups, "if you do this, you will grow", he did detect some themes. Groups which are growing tend to:

- *'hug the newcomer'*
- *emphasise the social*
- *put on easy walks as well as all the others*
- *use electronic communication (either website, email or social networking)*
- *do publicity*
- *constantly recruit new volunteers*
- *have a positive frame of mind*
- *try new things*
- *have a couple of 'stars' who get things going.*

Groups that are shrinking often:

- *have lots of volunteer vacancies*
- *have no new blood on the committee*
- *feel a bit tired, lacking new ideas*
- *have stopped doing publicity*
- *aren't going out of their way to recruit new members.*

Finances

The Board received a forecast to the end of the financial year (end of September) as well as the latest monthly accounts. They show a forecast surplus to the end of the year of c£650k. This is largely due to: additional legacy income of c£370k (one-off); the claiming of c£150k previously unclaimed gift aid stretching back to 2003 (one-off – made possible by the new CRM software); membership income being c£100k higher than forecast. The Honorary Treasurer welcomed the positive forecast, however he pointed out that apart from additional membership income, the rest of it was one-off and thus could not be relied on in future years.

Key Performance Indicators

The Board reviewed the latest monthly Key Performance Indicators. These are 16 key indicators – covering finance, membership, campaigns, and organisation – which give a snap-shot of

how we're performing against the Business Plan Target. Of the 16, we are on track with 14, and behind with two.

Budgets and Targets for 2010/11

The Board reviewed the Business Plan for 2010/11 (starting from October), and approved the budget and targets. The Board approved a base budget for 2010/11 which balanced, plus additional spending of £314k (taken from this year's surplus). It also agreed to put £250k aside into a specially designated fund for the possibility of having to make good a pensions shortfall in the future. As part of the budget, it was agreed to put £130k aside into a specially designated legal fund, to pay for national legal walking environment casework; to fund a modest investment in our website; to increase the amount spent on marketing to help achieve our target of membership growth; and to increase the total budget for Areas and Groups from £340k to £400k. It was also agreed to expand the 'Information and Inspiration' booklet for new members, which would be pocket-sized, and taken out on walks, with useful information on what to do about footpath problems, basic legal rights, etc.

The Board also approved the targets, linked to our four priorities for the coming year:

- *To end the year with more members than we started*
- *More charitable income*
- *Protecting and improving the path network*
- *More efficiency and effectiveness in the way the charity works*

The Board agreed membership rates for the coming year, based on an inflation increase. Individual annual rates will be £31, and joint rates will be £41. Following an original proposal from Surrey Area for a direct debit incentive, it was agreed that new members signing up by direct debit could be offered a discount of up to 50% for the first year (the details are yet to be worked out and will be communicated to Areas and Groups over the next few months). The Board also agreed a new monthly payment option to be introduced from April 2011 at £3 per month (single membership) and £4 per month (joint membership).

The Business Plan, as well as a four page summary, will be published in September for Areas and Groups, and will be discussed at the [Special National and Regional meetings](#) taking place around Britain with the Chair and Chief Executive, this Autumn.

The Chief Executive emphasised that the Business Plan was for the whole charity – not just central office. We needed all parts of the charity, including Areas and Groups, to help achieve our targets such as growing our membership.

Sub-Committees

The Board agreed that [Jonathan Kipling](#), the Honorary Treasurer, would chair the Finance and Audit Sub-committee; [Gus Halfhide](#) would chair the Strategy and Governance Sub-committee; and [Kate Ashbrook](#) would chair the Campaigns and Marketing Sub-committee.

Governance Review – Terms of Reference

The Board agreed the Terms of Reference for the proposed review of Governance, as agreed at General Council, looking into the relationship of General Council with the Board of Trustees – where responsibility for governance lies. The review will look at whether charitable status impacts on this, and whether the work of protecting public paths was enough to satisfy the 'public benefit' test for charities. The review will be undertaken by James Thorne, a former senior partner of Farrier and Co.

September Away Weekend

The Board, with the Senior Management Team, will be meeting in Neath, Wales in September for its annual weekend to review strategy. The Board agreed that the weekend will focus on gaining a greater understanding of Wales issues, and on the key issue of how the Ramblers expands its membership after many years of it declining.

Reference from East Yorkshire and Derwent Area

The Board received a reference from East Yorkshire and Derwent Area regarding our policy for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. As a [redrafted policy](#) is currently the subject of consultation with Areas and Groups, and will be reviewed at the Board meeting in September, it was agreed to reply fully to the letter after this.

Devolution Working Party

The Chair reported on the first meeting of the Devolution Working Party, set up as a result of the Board motion at General Council, which had held its first meeting the previous day. It had been a very constructive meeting with useful papers submitted by both Scotland and Wales. Wales did not believe that independence was financially viable but had several suggestions for better relationships with the two 'constituent parts'. Scotland, whilst aspiring towards independence, believed it would be unable to fund important legal cases from its 'independent' income and consequently wished to see what greater autonomy could be achieved short of independence. The Honorary Treasurer had agreed to draft the new protocol governing relationships with the constituent parts which would be discussed at the next working party meeting on September 13th.

If we want to carry on walking we need to act now

The biggest crisis to face rights of way and access in living memory is looming large. Councils across England and Wales are in the process of slashing budgets and making staff redundant – in some cases rights of way teams will disappear completely (News - posted 3 September 2010.)

As the organisation at the heart of walking, with our great history of fighting for walkers' rights, it falls to the Ramblers to act urgently, across the country, to speak up for rights of way and access work and to stress its ongoing importance. We all recognise that councils have tough decisions to make, and understand the relative importance of walking when compared to other essential services. But that should not dissuade us from making the case for walking – and fighting for rights of way and access to be properly resourced. Unless we act, and quickly, rights of way teams will be decimated – and the condition of paths in England and Wales could be set back 50 years.

The sense of this being a real emergency is heightened by the fact that many councils are already making in-year cuts. Our rights of way are falling victim to these cuts. The effects might not be felt immediately, but as problems are unresolved, and landowners realise that the law will no longer be enforced, the result will be an unwalkable, obstructed and blocked-up network. Walking will be restricted to 'honey pot' areas, promoted routes, and tarmaced paths on the urban fringe. This might be a worst-case scenario, but unless we act now it is the most likely one. This is a real emergency for walkers.

It is vitally important that we tell councils how much we value our rights of way, and that they need to ensure they fulfil their statutory duties. We should stress the role the Ramblers plays in keeping paths open, and the help we can offer in the future. But the voluntary sector cannot act alone – there must be experienced, dedicated staff working on rights of way and access in every local authority.

The Dead End? Campaign has already highlighted how budget cuts have impacted rights of way work nationally. We are now urging all Areas and Groups to campaign locally to highlight

these issues. (Campaigns should be coordinated at Area level, but there is a vital role for Groups to play). To help with this, a page of campaign materials has been put together, which can be found here: www.ramblers.org.uk/Campaigns+Policy/dead+end+lobby. We will be updating this page over the coming weeks so please keep checking back.

It is essential that we start raising awareness of any possible cuts now, before any autumn consultation deadlines. So even if you do not yet know what budget cuts are likely to occur, it is important to campaign to warn that rights of way are not an 'easy target'. You could do this in a number of ways, including:

- Sending out the first template press release, highlighting the threat of cuts
- Organising a walk for councillors, or a photo opportunity, and inviting the media to attend
- Writing letters to local newspapers
- Holding a face-to-face meeting with the relevant portfolio holder or cabinet member.
- Ensuring that Walk Leaders are talking about these issues to members attending led walks

Remember to stress the importance of walking, and the need for an open and usable rights of way network and access areas – not only for recreation, but also for health, tourism, sustainable transport, education, and the local economy. You will obviously be able to tailor your campaign to suit local circumstances.

Please let the Walking Environment team at central office know what campaigning you are doing, and keep us informed as your campaign progresses. As soon as you hear anything about cuts, or budget consultation exercises, we'd like to know. Don't worry if the information is vague, or simply rumours at this stage – the more information we have, the stronger our national campaigning will be.

This is an ideal opportunity to show all members in your Area and Group that the Ramblers is serious about protecting walkers rights, and you should take this opportunity to encourage members to get involved in our charitable work.

Thanks very much for any campaigning that you are already doing. If you have any questions, or would like help with your campaign, please get in touch by emailing Rachel Alcock, Campaigns Officer at rachel.alcock@ramblers.org.uk.

Working together we can make a real difference, and save our rights of way. Please keep in touch – and good luck with your campaigns!

Support and Events

75th Anniversary Awards

The 75th Anniversary Award Nomination Deadline is the 1st October and all nominations need to be received on or before this date (Reminder – posted 1 September 2010.)

Please remember that if you wish to nominate somebody for the 75th Anniversary Awards the nominations close on the 1st October 2010. If you are hoping to nominate somebody for the Award, or would like further details, you can find all the information you need by going to the [Awards page at http://www.ramblers.org.uk/NR/exeres/938C7710-73EA-445C-B6B9-E460CABC2FDA.frameless.htm?NRMODE=Published](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/NR/exeres/938C7710-73EA-445C-B6B9-E460CABC2FDA.frameless.htm?NRMODE=Published). If you would like to discuss the Awards or have any questions please get in touch with Ed Wilson, Volunteer Support and Development Officer, by [E-mail](#).

[Nomination forms](#) can be sent by post to:

Ed Wilson, Volunteer Support and Development Officer
The Ramblers

2nd Floor Camelford House,
87-90 Albert Embankment
London
SE1 7TW

Or by E-mail to Volsupport@ramblers.org.uk.

Area and Group annual returns 2009-10

Annual return packs for 2009/10 have been distributed to Area and Group Treasurers. (News - posted 31 August 2010)

Annual return packs have been sent by email to Area and Group Treasurers, via our Area Treasurers. A number of packs were also sent in hard copy on request. Group submission deadline: 22nd October 2010, Area submission deadline: 5th November 2010. If you do not receive your pack soon, please contact us at areagroupfinance@ramblers.org.uk.

Winter Walks Festival - 25th December 2010 – 3rd January 2011 reminder

In order to maximise the impact of the Festival of Winter walks we are asking groups to publish their walks on walks finder by 30 September, please (event-posted 19 August 2010).

Participating in the festival is a fantastic way to promote your group's walks and get new members. Therefore we would like to encourage all local Groups to participate. Many groups have already put their festival walks on the Group Walks Finder, so if you have not done this, could you please add yours? Advance notice of the walks is vital to ensure that our Press Office have time to obtain good media coverage.

We have simplified the process of putting walks on Walks finder. Just follow the instructions on <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/volunteer/groupwalksfinder> There is no need to include the festival code as all walks listed between 25 December and 3 January 2011 will be automatically included. If you experience difficulty in doing this please contact volunteer@ramblers.org.uk

We will be sending out publicity packs in November to groups putting on a walk, please let us know who to send the pack too.

If you have any queries about this event please contact Mary Gough at central office mary.gough@ramblers.org.uk

Thank you

July Monthly Membership Updates

The Monthly Membership Updates (MMU) for July and electronic membership lists were sent to Area Membership Secretaries on Friday 6th August. (News - posted 12th August 2010)

Also sent was a new report called Active Members by Area (AMA) which shows the breakdown of the Active members for all areas and membership type across Britain.

The numbers shown in the MMU's, AMA and the full membership lists are different because they report slightly different information. The MMU and AMA will show the number of Active members, which are members that have a current paid subscription. The member lists show all members with an Active status and also members with a Payment Pending status.

There may be a slight difference in the total number of Active members being reported in the 3 different reports. The difference is not an error with either the database or the reports, but due to the nature of how each report is produced. Some live data changes by the minute hence a small variance may occur. In all cases the difference in numbers are very small (if at all), therefore please do not be alarmed or report these differences to us.

Data Cleansing

We are currently looking into 28 different types of anomalies with the membership lists that have been highlighted by membership secretaries (well done and thank you). We are aware of these member's records, the issues have been prioritised and are being investigated as how best to deal with them in the most efficient manner to resolve them across the entire membership.

The most frequent anomalies and most frequent (but not exhaustive) causes are:

Members with an expiry date in the past: *Some of these will have a payment pending status so the list picks out the expiry date of their last fully paid subscription. Others that still have an active status have not been picked up in the renewal process and will be written to from central office.*

Expiry date is blank: *These members will have never had a subscription paid onto their record, so there is no expiry date for the list to pick out. There are several things that could have caused this. Some will be because their payment is waiting to be paid, for example new direct debit members. Alternatively it could be a joint member that has changed to an individual but their partner had previously been paying the subscription. Other queries have been caused by processing errors; these members will be written to from central office.*

Individual member that is shown as having a joint member: *This is under investigation as it may be a case that the member should have a joint membership type or it may be there is an old link to their previous joint member record that needs removing.*

Joint member that has a blank field in joint member: *The majority of these members have been in this situation for many years. Historically this has been allowed when an individual member wished to pay a higher subscription or if we hadn't been informed who the joint member was. The process for new joint members that only provide one name is to create a "partner" record so there would always be 2 records even if we do not have the name of one of the members.*

Member appearing on the membership list twice: *This was a glitch with the lists where members that have 2 email addresses were appearing on 2 separate lines with everything the same apart from their email addresses. This should now have been fixed.*

September Renewal Notices

On a final note, the renewal notices for members due to renew in September should be on their way to those members already. As you may remember, a human error caused members renewing in September last year to be sent membership cards with the wrong expiry date (August 2010 instead of September 2010). To ensure they don't have a gap in having a valid membership card, their renewal notices have been sent approximately three weeks early.

Kind regards

Membership Team

Top Tips for Increasing Group Membership - More Ideas!

Read some more Group ideas for how to attract new members

Following a huge response to a previous volunteer feature, [Top Tips for Increasing Group Membership](#), Alex Manning, from the Ramblers' London Metropolitan Walkers Group, gives his top tips for bringing in the members, drawn up from a workshop he ran at General Council in 2009:

1. A good walks programme

- *To attract a wide range of people a group should have a mixture of long, medium and short walks (i.e. 12+ =, 8-12 and 5 and below miles long). Not everyone wants to just do one type of walk a mixture will ensure the maximum amount of people are attracted to your club.*
- *The pace / grade of a walk needs to be advertised. Some people like to walk fast others slow. What is important is that people are aware what pace a walk will be.*
- *Themed walks are very popular with people e.g. Bluebell walks.*
- *A mixture of urban / city walks also goes down well.*
- *Walks with an advertised attraction e.g. visit to cave or stately home also attract people.*
- *Evening strolls are a good idea to attract people who work - these tend to start around 7pm and be around 3 miles.*

2. Walks etiquette

- *At the beginning of the walk always give a brief introductory talk on the walk i.e. how long walk is, time of lunch etc.*
- *It is important to make new people feel welcome so make a point of going up to them and giving them some info on the group. You could introduce them to some people as well!*

3. Advertising your walks / group

This is key to a successful group. If you have a good walks programme but no one knows about it then you will not get any new members.

- *It is important that it is as easy as possible for new people to know about the walks that you are carrying out. The web is the key to this - people find out about new clubs via the web.*
- *Ideally walks should be put on the Ramblers walks finder - this is a specific piece of software which the Ramblers designed for groups.*
- *At least your next 5 walks should be displayed on your website. When people find your walking group on the web they want to know what walks you do and how they can go to them. Therefore full details of the walks should be put on the website.*
- *People need to be able to find your website when searching on the web. Putting as many links to your website from other websites is an effective way of doing this. Good websites to do this include local online newsletters (e.g. SE1 in Lambeth) or on websites that people look at locally. You can also put links online on Gumtree and Timeout.*
- *Running a stall at a local event can also be a good way to get new members, leaflets can be given out to the prospective new members.*
- *Putting on walks on walk festivals also highlights your group e.g. Ramblers festival of winter walks*
- *Having a good website also helps. This is the first impression people get of the group so it is important that this looks good!*
- *An idea is to brand your group as "the local walking group for e.g. Lambeth and Southwark" emphasizing the local aspect of the group helps.*

4. Getting new walk leaders

- *People will join voluntarily if they like the group. It should be made clear to new people that they can come on a walk with the group up to 3 times before deciding whether to join.*
- *It should be emphasized on a regular basis that the group relies on volunteers to make the group work and that it is always on the look out for new walk leaders.*
- *If someone complains that the group only does long walks for example then encourage them to put on a short walk.*
- *There should be regular appeals for new walks leaders e.g. every programme.*

5. Socials

- *Socials create a good bond in the group.*
- *An idea to attract new people is to have a new members evening where people can be introduced to the group.*

6. Weekends away

- *Organising weekends away is also a good idea and lets members of the group walk in different areas of the country.*
- *The Met Walkers introduced a "weekend lite" concept. Everyone who attends the weekends away organises their own accommodation and travel all the organiser needs to do is put on the walks! People are more likely to carry out a weekend away as a result.*