

## Programme Secretary's Report for the 2021 AGM – Di Higgs

Over the last year our walks programme has followed the guidance from Ramblers Head Office. We began the year with ad hoc walks of up to 30 walkers advertised by email, on the website, Facebook, WhatsApp Group Ramblers Interactive, and on GWEM.

On 4<sup>th</sup> January we went back into lockdown again and all walks ceased until restrictions were lifted again in April. Ad hoc walks were a good way of getting back to walking in groups but were quite time consuming for the committee as we were continually sending out emails, updating pages and databases. We were also concerned that some walkers were missing out as many walks were quickly booked up. It was therefore decided to put on full 4month programmes in advance from May to August and September to December. All walks were still booked in advance and followed Ramblers Head Office guidelines.

We have had one coach trip this year to West Kirby and Hilbre Island which was well supported and enjoyed by all despite the weather and hope to have more trips in 2022. The away week in Abergavenny was once again postponed but the autumn trip to the HF centre in Lulworth Cove went ahead in glorious sunny weather.

Numbers on weekly walks have been mixed and although people seem to more confident about walking in groups most are still going to the start point which can make parking an issue in some areas. The walks could not take place without the members who volunteer to devise walks, reccy and lead them. As there are less people ready to lead under the current guidelines the onus is falling on fewer people so many thanks to those of you who do that. Looking to the future we need new walk leaders to come forward so that we can maintain a full programme.

Thanks also to the walks co-ordinators Anne Nairn, Tessa Conway-Holland and Amanda Hartley-Newton who has taken over Sunday walks co-ordination from Michael Lillistone and Sue Roberts and Shirley Konieczny who have been the Wednesday evening organisers for several years. They are stepping down from the role and, if you want the Wednesday evening walks to take place next year, we need replacements. Finally, thanks to Phil Barnes who collates all the walks and puts them on to the central database.