

### Chair's report

Thank you to all our members for their continued support.

As I come to the end of my first year as Area Chair, I must say a huge thank you to the officers of the Area Executive Committee for all the hard work that they continue to put into their roles on behalf of Leicestershire and Rutland Area. As a newcomer to the AEC, I have been most impressed by the knowledge, enthusiasm and dedication that the members of the AEC bring to their roles, and continue to do so even when going through difficult personal circumstances. Thank you all for that, and thank you for helping and guiding me in my first year as Area Chair.

Thanks also to all of you who devote your time and energy to the cause as walk leaders and group committee members. It is your efforts, and the efforts of all those like you around the country, that keep this movement going. In particular I want to acknowledge Terry Bates, who has stepped down after 25 years as chairman of Leicester group. Thank you for all you've done, Terry!

It's good to see that as an Area we have continued to recover well from the pandemic. Walks programmes have been restored, and overall membership has increased by over 100 over the last 12 months.

Lastly, as Martin mentioned in his Chair's report 12 months ago, we are no longer producing a printed Area newsletter, and have been using an email version for the last 12 months. If you have been experiencing any difficulty in receiving the electronic version, please let us know and we'll see if there's anything we can do.

Thank you all once again, and I look forward to another successful 12 months for Leicestershire and Rutland Ramblers.