

A disappointing year in respect of the number of walks offered. A shortage of Leaders as a result of illness and, sadly, deaths hasn't helped. Many of these leaders were stalwarts who could be relied on to offer a good number of walks across the year. Recruiting New Leaders has never been easy and the introduction of "e-learning" modules doesn't do anything to make the process easier. We have had 3 people express interest in becoming Leaders since the start of the new system. One has decided not to bother, a second completed the modules and now leads. The third described the process as "Tedious" and a waste of a half day. She will start leading when personal circumstances allow.

To try to fill gaps on the programme a "WhatsApp" Group has been formed so that members can be informed of any walks put on at short notice.

A Walk Leaders Badge/Tag was introduced during the year which has proven very popular. After leading 5 walks a Leader qualifies for the badge/tag which is presented on or after the sixth walk. Some 20+ tags have been awarded. This at no cost to Ramblers as the costs have been privately funded.

Strangely during the year Hinckley had an issue with "Walkfinder" where walks that were put on subsequently disappeared. This now appears to have been resolved.

On the Social Front we have continued with some regular activities. The Annual Coach Ramble, this year to Lincoln, was successful both in the walks offered and financially, making a small profit and having a full bus. This Year's Long Distance Walk was Warwickshire Centenary Way where a number of people completed all Sections. Next Year's Long Distance Walk is scheduled for July and will be Shakespeare's Avon Way which will be walked over 8 consecutive days. All are welcome to walk the whole route or just dip in and out for odd days.

The significant increase in mileage rates determined by Head Office without notice for carrying out a Walk Recce, without a corresponding increase in funding, caused a funding issue. Whereas Hinckley have always operated well within the budget [At least for the last 10 Years] this year we came close to running out of funds.

At our recent AGM there were a number of Committee/ Officer changes.

Tony Smith stood down as Chairman, after 10 Years in the role. Mike I'Anson has taken over as Chairman

Mike I'Anson in taking over as Chairman has relinquished the role of Treasurer, a position he has held for 15 Years.

Tony Smith is taking over as Membership Secretary from Trevor Martin. This will allow Trevor, along with Brian Knight, to concentrate on the Website

Mike's replacement as Treasurer is Angela Preece, who also continues on the Social Team

Our Secretary [Gill Spatcher], Walks Manager [Pete Hopewell], Footpath Secreatry [Wendy Birt], General Committee [Lin Cook], Social Team [Hazel Dalziel & Angela Preece, as noted above] continue in their roles

An addition to the committee is Jean Davies who will be responsible for bringing on New Leaders and encouraging existing Leaders to do more.