

Rutland Group Report - 2024

Rutland group continues to thrive. Membership has, with minor variations month on month, remained stable at around 140. Our traditional Sunday walks have continued to be well supported, with us averaging 15-20 folks on most days. The additional summer programme (shorter walks on Wednesday evenings to include dogs and a hostelry) has attracted several members who now prefer less mileage, and these are continuing into the winter on Wednesday mornings.

With our neighbouring group, Stamford, struggling to keep afloat (now disbanded), our team of walk leaders has been particularly busy providing support in recent months. We plan to warmly welcome any ex-Stamford members wishing to transfer to our group.

2024 has seen Rutland group involved in a range of other activities. In late April one of our long standing members organised an excellent treasure hunt, involving both driving and walking in the pursuit clues. Our membership secretary, ably assisted by a few walk leaders, made a significant contribution to the success of the Rutland Walking/Cycling Festival in late May, and we went on to host this year's Area Walk at the end of June - brilliantly supported by a strong Hinckley contingent!

By the time you read this we will also have held our AGM at Launde Abbey, now a firm fixture with its combination of a fine walk, a rapid meeting and afternoon tea. This year sees our long serving treasurer, Martin Thompson, standing down, and our thanks go to him for always keeping 'the books' in perfect order.

Finally, and sadly, we lost a much loved member recently with the death of Lesly Hayes, following a long period of ill health. Lesly was passionate about her walking and an invaluable committee member for several years, mostly as group secretary - a role she performed with great efficiency.

John Pitts/Michael Gillon