

Coalville Group – Annual Report 2023

This has been another successful year with membership increasing slightly to 251 members. The Group has been able to offer a full walks programme (albeit with a couple of recent cancellations due to the adverse weather conditions!) with more moderate walks of between 7-12 miles on Wednesdays and Saturday/Sunday, and shorter more leisurely walks of 5/6 miles on a Thursday. The Thursday walks continue to be very popular with a regular attendance of 30+. The Group also re-introduced Summer Monday evening walks which were very well attended and we hope to have more of these next Summer.

Our Facebook page continues to be very popular with over 400 followers and good reports/Relives/photos of the walks and the post walk “de-briefs”. We believe this to be a great asset for encouraging followers to join the Ramblers, or at least to “come and give us a try”.

In May we experimented with a self-drive/self-book 3-night/4-day walking break to Bridlington which was attended by some 33 ramblers, the weather was kind and there were several walks of varying lengths covering the coastal path from Bridlington to the RSPB Centre at Bempton Cliffs. (Following this successful venture we have arranged a similar event to Scarborough next May but this time for 4 nights and 40 members have already self-booked to go).

In June we had a coach trip to Bakewell which again was well attended with three walk options, a longer 10 miles, a more moderate 8 miles and a leisurely 6.5 miles.

In September we again “experimented” with a Sunday/Monday walking break to the Peak District (Dovedale, Manifold Trail, Luds Church and the Roaches) with the option of an overnight stay in Leek. This again was a success with some 31 ramblers attending, including two from Cardiff Ramblers joining us on the Monday. (Following this we have arranged a 2-night/3-day walking event in Monmouth for next April)

In October we had another very successful venture with 22 members enjoying a 2-night/3-day walking break to the Elan Valley with HF Holidays.

The Group has also been active socially, with evening meals, pub quiz nights and a musical evening. We are presently looking forward to our annual Christmas meal which is to be held on the 17th December at the Thringstone Members Club.

In September we held a Walk Leaders Training event where various materials were provided to leaders (first-aid kits, hi-viz vests, whistles, rucksack covers, foil blankets).

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We do need to encourage more members to become walk leaders as none of us are getting any younger!

Our AGM was held on the 4th November where, sadly, our Chair/Area Representative/Membership Secretary/Publicity Officer, Secretary and Webmaster stepped down but fortunately we had volunteers who were prepared to cover all roles.

We wish to thank them for their sterling work which has enabled the Group to expand and become more “adventurous” particularly following the trials and tribulations of the lockdown era. We only hope that the new Committee will be able to continue their good work. Our first Committee meeting for 2024 will be held on the 19th January.

Finally I would like to thank all of our members, walk leaders, social event organisers, for making all of our activities so enjoyable.

John Boodle

Area Representative Coalville Ramblers

8th December 2023