

Hinckley Rambler Group Report AGM January 2024

A slightly disappointing year if based on the number of walks programmed. Although we put on more than 100 walks this is down on last year and some two-thirds of the number of walks that we could have done based on our walking days. Unfortunately we have lost a number of Leaders owing to ill health or indeed passing away. These Leaders will be sorely missed. We put on a New Leader course which was well attended and generated 4 new Leaders. Sadly two of those have since been side-lined through their own or family health matters. Apart from continuing with a "recruitment drive" we intend in 2024 to further encourage existing Leaders to put on more walks. We are lucky to have some Guest Leaders, from other Rambler Groups, and welcome walks being led by any of the guests we have walking with us from time to time.

On the Social front we have had a number of successful events including "Fun with Antiques" and a Beetle drive on one night, a number of meals including an annual dinner, and walks that finished with Afternoon Tea or a lunch at a local college. At the colleges the Students cooking and serving meals at both Leicester and Nuneaton Colleges. Our now annual "Alfa" holiday saw us this year take over the entire coach meaning a direct transfer to Bognor Regis, instead of going via a Coach Interchange. 2024 trip to Llandudno is also fully booked.

Our weekly Newsletter, Pete's Ramblings, passed the 500 issue landmark a few months ago. Along with our website this ensure members are kept up to date.

On the "Footpath" front we had a major success. Mike Waring, the then Footpath Secretary, provided comprehensive responses to various Planning Officers and Secretary of State Inspectorate. This long running issue which went to appeal a couple of times prevents an Armed Forces Vehicle Refurbishment operation from taking place at a former farm, either as a business or hobby. The applicant cannot appeal the decision again or put forward a new application. The applicant is also required to reinstate the footpath to its former line. Mike had stepped down from Hinckley Committee when the last appeal was being heard but readily came forward to help bring the matter to a successful conclusion.

Regards, Tony

Hinckley Group Chairman