

Loughborough Ramblers to 2024 Area AGM

The present membership of the Loughborough Group is about 135. Fewer than half of them are known to us through taking part in walks! We assume that the rest are people who support the aims of Ramblers nationally and find the magazine useful but don't want to join Group walks.

Our walks programme over the last year has included two walks most weeks, with generally 10 to 20 people on mid week walks and about half that number on weekend walks. Mid-week walks have been around 6 – 8 miles, while the weekend walks are longer at around 10 – 12 miles. We have been pleased to welcome visitors from other Groups and prospective members of Ramblers.

About 40 of us enjoyed a coach trip to the Chilterns in April. We also had a weekend holiday in August at the HF Longmynd House in Church Stretton. 20 of us enjoyed walks around Ragleth Hill, Caer Caradoc, The Lawley and the Long Mynd. Other social events in 2023 have included an evening walk followed by a pub meal in Mountsorrell and a Christmas lunch in Swithland, and the Soar Feet team picked up the Area Quiz trophy in November. Plans are in hand for a skittles evening in February and a coach trip to Malvern in April 2024.

Loughborough Ramblers celebrated their 35th Anniversary this year with a walk from St Bernard's Abbey. It was based on the route of the first walk done by the Group in 1998, and was followed by a visit to St Joseph's Tea Room.

The months when we were not able to walk due to covid rules seem a distant memory, but in common with most other membership organisations we are still feeling the effects in terms of numbers of people walking and the willingness of members to take on leadership roles both on the committee and as walk leaders. We have been pleased that one or two members have come forward as new walk leaders but we really do need more people to volunteer to lead walks.