

ANNUAL REPORT OF RAMBLERS CYMRU CARDIFF GROUP FOR 2024-2025

This year has seen the end of an era, as the committee decided to discontinue producing a printed programme. The Cardiff Group has been providing a printed programme ever since its founding in 1983 but that all ended with the publication of the April to September 2025 programme. A letter explaining the reasons behind the decision was included in the mail-out. From October onwards members will be relying on information on our own website, Gwyn Lewis's weekly newsletter and The Ramblers website (as our walks' information is organised using The Ramblers' Walks Manager).

A clear majority of our members are able to access the Internet and so should be able to access information about our walks should they wish to. A letter was sent to those who have not provided the Group with an email address asking if they would have problems with the decision but only one responded to this request.

Regarding the walks programme, huge thanks must go to all the walk leaders who provide a range of walks that provides something for everyone; walks have ranged from four to eighteen miles on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays plus Thursday evening walks in the summer. This year there were three coach trips, all on a Wednesday, and they again proved very successful: so many thanks to Karen Walters who organises them. In addition, Roma Whiteley organised another successful back-packing walk: this one following the Teesdale Way from Dufton to the mouth of the Tees.

The work of putting a programme together is very much a team effort: so thanks must go to Jan Aplin, Leighton Hill, Barry Southwell and Gwyn Lewis who act as co-ordinators and inspire leaders to put forward walks; thanks also to Andrew Price, the Publications Officer, for putting it all together ready for the printers. Thanks also to Jean Board, Membership Secretary, for organising the final mail-outs-out and Mike Kohnstamm, Webmaster, for the uploading of the information onto the website and The Ramblers walks' database. The Group continues to produce a six monthly programme as this is the preferred option for the majority of walks coordinators so that enthusing walk leaders and monitoring the sorts of walks being offered does not become a constant chore.

The impact of The Ramblers new requirements for walk leaders is being closely monitored by the committee. All our current walk leaders have been contacted about the new requirements and the committee has organised training sessions where walk leaders can complete their training as part of a group.

Our Chair, Andrew Price, is standing down at the 2025 AGM so there is also a need for someone to step forward and take up this position. I am sure Andrew will be happy to give advice to anyone thinking about volunteering and there is plenty of training available from The Ramblers as well as help and support from the Committee.

The Group responded to the Cardiff's Replacement Local Development Plan which will determine the development of Cardiff up to 2036. Our response focussed on objecting to so-called candidate sites, many of which proposed new housing developments on the open countryside which surrounds the present urban parts of Cardiff.

Our committee member, Leighton Hill, was heavily involved with a campaign against the sudden appearance of gates preventing access to a long-established and popular track leading to the forestry area above Cwmparc; his walk for the Group in September became one celebrating the success of this campaign.

Membership of the Group continues to grow and in July a milestone was reached when it passed the seven hundred mark.

Diane Davies