

Treasurers Report – John Shale

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Reports for WCR Committee Meeting 4 September 2024

Membership Secretary – Andrew Swarbrick

A small drop in numbers this time:

current total - as of today - is 468

Since our last meeting, I have written to welcome 18 new members, but 22 have left - including 3 deceased members about whom I have notified members already.

Walks co-ordinator's report – Deborah Quow

Walks programme

The April to June programme offered 37 walks by 21 walk leaders. (Three walks were paired). Again, it was quite impressive in terms of number and diversity of walks offered. Tuesday and occasional Saturday walks continued to be offered for this programme.

Walk leaders continue to submit a short feedback email to me with numbers attended on each walk.

The numbers for the three month programme were as follows:

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>No of walks</u>
30 +	= 0
20 - 29	= 6
10 - 19	= 23
1 - 9	= 8

The average number on a walk was 13.86, slightly down from the last programme.

We offered a couple of very short walks again plus more 'leisurely' walks.

The July to September programme currently running offers 45 walks by 22 walk leaders, with 4 walks being jointly led. It incorporates the Walking Week from 15 – 21 July.

This programme offers 9 leisurely and 2 easy walks, showing again that we are trying to accommodate as many types of walker as possible. One of the easy walks is the Dover Blue Plaques Trail.

Numbers so far (until 29 August) this programme are:

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>No of walks</u>
30 +	= 1
20 - 29	= 5
10 - 19	= 18
1 - 9	= 9

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Average numbers are very slightly down again to 13.81.

Walking Week

This is the second year of this event. The main thrust of the Walking Week is to provide at least one walk a day for a week and offer start times and locations which we do not usually offer with a focus also on socialising during or after the walk in a café, pub or restaurant.

This year there were two walks on six of the seven days and they ranged from earlier morning to late evening, the first one being a 9am walk around the Pegwell Nature Reserve ending with elevenses in the Viking Ship Café and the last one being a sunset walk in St Margaret's taking in a drink at the Zetland Arms.

There were three new Royal Kentish Camino walks on offer and also two legs of the Via Francigena, both initially starting from Canterbury, but taking in several scenic parts of the Kentish countryside on the way to the south coast.

Other walks included a full moon walk starting in Swingfield, St Mary's Island, Chatham and Docks, a tour of the Royal Marine Barracks in Walmer and Deal and a memorial walk for Lesley Stephenson from Bleriot Memorial, Dover. A walk around the Leeds Castle countryside and the Medway Valley also featured.

Average number of walkers during this week was 12.76.

Walk leaders update

29 walk leaders have offered walks from the beginning of this year. As usual, some walk leaders offer several walks each programme and some literally offer them now and again.

We still need to continue to support existing walk leaders and encourage new ones on an ongoing basis. One or two members who used to lead walks have said they will consider returning next year.

We discussed the new Ramblers Handbook for Walk Leaders at the last meeting, and I would like to send out new guidelines to walk leaders once approved by the committee.

Public Footpath Observer Co-ordinator - Margaret Milsted-Williamson

Vegetation Clearance Report – John Shale

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