

West Berkshire Ramblers AGM 1st November 2023

Our net membership over 2023 has grown slightly since 1/01/2023 by 10 to 315. This number represents individual people on our list which is managed by Rambler's head office. The make up of our membership continues to turn over as expected with new members coming in replacing those who have stopped walking regularly or have moved away. Unfortunately it is impossible for me to complete any analysis on trends as the listings does not allow me to make calculations and comparisons with previous years. All I can say is that our membership is about 51.7% declared female!

Communication has changed so much in recent years and this has meant that in the time since many members joined and started walking with Ramblers we have moved from relying mostly on posting walk programmes to members to today when we rely almost totally on our website and email. We like to send details of social events, our coach walk programmes and also the occasional newsletter. The rising cost of postage has meant that even sending out 40 AGM notices takes up about £28 of our meagre budget. All this means that it is vital that we have permission from you (or your partner if you have joint membership) to accept email from Ramblers. Using the new improved Ramblers website making simple changes to your membership profile to do this is very easy. I urge you to do this or check your status this as soon as possible.

Finally we continue to have some problems communicating with members whose email address has changed or no longer functioning. The same applies to phone numbers. There remain about 10 members where we cannot send an email or cannot phone to check the situation. Again I urge members to check their listed address on the website and make changes where necessary.

Many members who walk regularly check the West Berks Ramblers website for information on walks and events. Today this is our preferred way of keeping in touch.

Robin Clugston

John Gardner

Membership Secretaries.