

The Ramblers – Berkshire Walkers Group

Treasurer's Report and Accounts

for the year ended 30 September 2023

Treasurer's Report

The Group's income, expenditure and funds are divided into "main" and "self-funded" funds. Self-funded funds are those relating to holidays and social events; as the name suggests, these are expected to be self-financing, with no subsidy from elsewhere. Main funds cover everything else; these largely come from Central Office via Area and are spent on the Group's running costs and activities which support the Ramblers' charitable objectives.

To ensure that cash within the Ramblers (including Areas and Groups) is put to the best possible use, Central Office currently ask that Groups aim to keep their main funds between 40% and 100% of main annual expenditure. However, this reserves percentage is only monitored for groups whose main funds exceed £500.

For this year, we were allocated our basic budget allocation of £302, which went towards covering our usual AGM and website costs, as well as using Meetup. At the time of writing, our budget for 2023-24 has been agreed to be higher mainly to purchase additional promotional materials and member gifts to help continue motivating our volunteers.

Our main funds expenditure amounted to £724.08, which was lower compared to last year's total of £832.06. This can be mainly attributed to less orders for this year's merchandise order compared to the prior year. Our publicity expenditure amounted to £186.06 compared to £202.17 last year, which was almost in line with last year.

In 2016, the Berkshire Walkers joined The Walking Partnership (TWP), which is an initiative run by Ramblers Worldwide Holidays (RWH). Members participating in RWH holidays are able to nominate the Berkshire Walkers to receive a payment of between £10 and £30 depending on the type of holiday. Anything received through the scheme must be credited to main funds, and must also be spent in accordance with TWP's terms and conditions. In particular, it is a requirement that any funding received from TWP is used for the encouragement and support of walking in our area, and that we include a link to TWP/RWH's website from our own. For the avoidance of doubt, RWH is not part of the Ramblers' Association. The Group received £50.00 from RWH in 2022-23 which was added to the provision in the accounts. £51.00 was spent in the year towards new walk leader badges, leaving a provision of £46.64 to carry forward into 2022-23.

Self-funded funds increased from £439.66 to £516.28 compared to last year, the main reason being a surplus of £79.47 from the Scotland trip due to the trip filling up after the original deadline and payments were calculated on the basis of having an empty space. Other holidays and socials broke even in the year, bar a few where small surpluses and deficits were made.

Jack Lewis
Treasurer