

November 2020

Trafford Ramblers Newsletter

RAMBLINGS



The
Supreme
Leader



always
provides
home
made
cakes at
coffee

Welcome to our first Newsletter

This will be circulated by email to all members of the Trafford Ramblers and its aim is to involve and inform our members of the activities that are organised. And possibly even to entertain!

It will be an irregular production and will depend on contributions from all. Any article will be welcome, historical, hysterical, original or plagiarized.

For example a favourite walk, an interesting walking holiday or amusing anecdote. Anything that may be of interest to our readers.

Richard

Appearing on our website soon will be information about the return of our walks programme, so please keep checking this. It all depends on guidance from the Government and from the Ramblers. And then if our Walk Leaders, who are the most valuable part of our group, are happy to continue under the current circumstances.

Ramblers outdoor group activities can restart in all tiers from Wednesday 2 December 2020 – please follow the travel restrictions in your area and do not travel to or from Tier 3: Very High alert areas.

Extract from the Ramblers Website

If you would like to restart group walks, and the current restrictions allow you to do so, these are the steps you must take:

1. **Record your role on Assemble:** all Ramblers walk leaders must have their role and groups recorded on Assemble.
2. **Complete a risk assessment:** use our template to complete a risk assessment for each walk.
3. **Set a limit:** walks of up to 30 people are allowed, but choose a limit that suits you.
4. **Advertise your walk:** use the Ramblers website/app, your group or area website, your group or area public social media page, or printed programme to advertise in advance.
5. **Take a register:** this is required to support NHS contact tracing.
6. **Stay safe by physically distancing:** follow government guidelines on physical distancing.



Hope to do this again soon

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richardlski@gmail.com

Page 2 articles

Whatsapp Groups

Footpath Maintainance

AGM Committee Appoint- ments Nov 20

Chair. Richard Longbottom

Secretary Judith Hunter

Treasurer Kas Kabbani

Membership secretary Sheila
Kabbani

Walks Coordinator Rosemary
Hurley

Footpath Secretary June Ma-
bon

Social Media Phil Connolly

Social Secretary Vicky Long-
bottom

Auditor Malcolm Hunter

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Whatsapp– Trafford Ramblers Social, and RTG Walks Information

Mid November saw the start of a new WhatsApp group 'RTG Walks Information'. It doesn't replace the website's general information or walks calendar but will give up to the minute text to the group members of lastminute walks being made available or potential lastminute problems concerning a walk. The groups WhatsApp description is as follows:-

'This group is purely for RTG information and walk details for the Walk and Stroller programme.

Members of the group can use it to seek guidance and directions and to inform walk leaders of problems if they have to cancel their attendance for a walk at the last minute.

Please no photos, unless used for guidance and no social text.'

This follows on from our WhatsApp group called the 'Trafford Ramblers' that was initially intended to be the same as the description for 'RTG Walks Information'. Not quite as planned, the 'Trafford Ramblers' WhatsApp group soon became very popular as a means of general and social chat with members putting on their own photos of their walks.

Unfortunately we actually lost a few members off the WhatsApp group as they were getting lots of texts that they didn't want or feel part of. Regardless it has been quite evident that during the present situation this WhatsApp group has been invaluable as a means of keeping in touch amongst the regular walking group members, so has been renamed 'Trafford Ramblers Social'.

The background to the start of these WhatsApp groups was that a couple of years ago a walk had to be cancelled on the day through unexpected bad weather. Unfortunately, not all walkers saw the postponement on the website and a couple battled snow and icy roads to the start.

This was the catalyst for us to find a more effective and instant form of communication and the creation of the WhatsApp groups.

One or both groups are available for anyone to join. Phill Connolly

If you wish to join one or both of the groups please contact—Phil via rtgmembership@yahoo.co.uk

How Trafford Group help the maintenance of the footpaths in Trafford

1 Lockdown and the Footpath Teams

What did the footpath teams get up to during and between the lockdowns? In a word – they just carried on working more or less as usual. The footpath inspection team members, working as usual as individuals, used the permitted exercise quota to walk (and cycle) round the ten highway authority divisions of Trafford, checking on public rights of way for fitness for purpose and compliance with the Council's formal description. The usual end of summer inspection report was compiled and sent to Trafford Council's Highways Department together with problem reports where paths failed to meet the Council defined standard. So for the footpath inspectors it has been very much business as usual.

The Path Maintenance Team started clearing vegetation on paths as usual in February but had to stop at the start of the first lockdown until the "rule of six" allowed work to resume in early summer. By then, grass growth was well established so the team concentrated on keeping nuisance bramble growth and self seeded sapling growth under control on paths throughout the borough to allow walkers to use the paths and keep the grass growth in check. The second lockdown forced the team to hang up their trimmers and loppers a week or two before the scheduled end of the season. Pity it also prevented the team's end of season coffee and mince pies review of the year's work!

2 Can you help our Ramblers Group to secure path improvement funding?

A well used footpath in Urmston is regularly smitten by autumn leaf fall which quickly turns it into a muddy track. The path, known locally as the hospital path, links Moorside Road and Davyhulme Road and runs between the golf course and Trafford General Hospital. It is used by commuters and dog walkers and as an urban path ought to be navigable in normal footwear and not need wellingtons. Its formal name is footpath Urmston 8. Funding for path improvements in Urmston has recently become available and is being managed by the newly formed Urmston Active Neighbourhood (UAN) project. The project's decisions on what to spend and where will be influenced by public opinion and decisions will be made by end of December 2020. You can help by emailing the project and saying you support the proposal to improve footpath Urmston 8 by managing the autumn leaf fall problem and making it an easy to use all year round path. Visit www.trafford.gov.uk/UrmstonActiveNeighbourhood to read about the project and email urmstonan@amey.co.uk with your support for improving footpath Urmston 8. An alternative postal address is, Urmston Active Neighbourhood, Tatton House, 11 Caldey Road, Manchester M23 9LF.

June Mabon Footpath Secretary

For more information on how to be involved with footpath monitoring or maintenance in Trafford please contact June via rtgmembership@yahoo.co.uk