

Annual Report and Financial Statement
of
Epsom & Ewell Health Walks

for the year ended 31st March 2020

*A small Charity established April 2011 and
Registered with HMRC No XT 37422
Affiliated to Ramblers Walking for Health
WfH Accreditation Award achieved September 2014*

Management Committee

Chairman	Roger Kaye
Minutes / Health Walk Programme Coordinator	Susan Anderson
Treasurer	Denis Fenton
Data Analysis Officer	Keith Childs

Independent Examiner

Malcolm Howard

Walk Leaders

To become a Walk Leader it is required that the person should attend an official *Walking for Health* Walk Leader's Training Course.

This does not apply to those who volunteer to back or middle mark only.

During 2019-20 there were 27 active trained leaders who helped on walks plus 2 volunteer back markers a reduction from 31 plus 2 in the previous year. We lost four leaders due to retirement but another trained leader who was inactive this year is returning for 2020/21.

Structure and Management

The Group has an elected Management Committee which normally meets three times a year, or as required.

There is a further Meeting of all Walk Leaders which is also normally held three times a year.

The method of election to the Management Committee is set out in the Constitution, and all Group members are encouraged to stand for election

Aims and Objectives

To offer regular, informal, and friendly Health Walks within the community

To promote the Group and encourage a healthy and physically active lifestyle, while exercising a duty of care to all walkers.

Chairman's Report

We had hoped that the current crisis would have passed and we would have been welcoming you all again to Boidier for the AGM, sadly this is not the case.

Last year I mentioned that we had not received any real information as to funding through Ramblers. I am afraid that we are still in a state of limbo and I personally cannot see this situation being resolved for some time.

This has led to the Committee having several lengthy discussions as to what we can do for funding. I will not comment on this as Denis will have covered this in his Treasurer's Reports.

Last year I mentioned our relationship with the Richmond Trust. Sadly we had to cancel our walks with them as we were just not getting the numbers we were hoping for. Also they were not prepared to promote the walks in the way that we wanted.

Again I have to mention that we would like some of you to step up and become walk leaders as this last year we have lost two very valuable leaders. Having been with us since the beginning Leslie Simpson has decided to retire and we must thank him for his many years of service. Also Margaret Laker a much appreciated walk leader has stepped down and will be missed.

The Christmas Lunches were a great success on both days and I think we have got the formula right and can look forward to next Christmas.

We faced a major crisis with the loss of our website provider but thanks to the voluntary help and expertise of John Bleackley, the son-in-law of a Committee Member this crisis was overcome. John designed and provided a new website and webmail to our specifications saving us a considerable amount of expense. We owe John a big thank you .

I must thank

Our team of ladies who prepare the leaflets and envelopes for mailing quarterly

They are Gill Page, Diane Attfield, Kwan Tan, and Elizabeth Muscutt.

Chris Jones who takes care of our Risk Assessments.

And Malcolm Howard who I am sure will examine our Accounts when lock down restrictions are finally lifted.

And finally your Committee Susan, Keith, and Denis who without their enthusiasm and input our walks would not happen.

We hope to see you all when the walks resume.

Roger Kaye Chairman

Treasurer's Annual Report

There are three items in our Receipts and Payments this year which are worthy of mention and have contributed to an overall satisfactory level of outlay. Thanks to a new policy of reducing circulation of quarterly leaflets to unproductive outlets there has been a corresponding reduction in expenditure which will show more obviously next year. Expense on our new website and webmail proved to be far lower than anticipated as will be annual fees in future. This was due to the expert voluntary help which Roger mentioned. A gift of thanks for this help plus a funeral donation on the death of a member made up the £69 non-recurring expenditure.

The Financial Statement is presented Unexamined but will be Examined as soon as the Coronavirus restrictions are lifted.

Denis Fenton Treasure

Future Financing

Since we became independent in April 2011 we have not had to concern ourselves with financing our activities due to a grant of £3300 which we received from the EDICS health group at that time and a generous anonymous donation of £5000 from an elderly lady in September 2012.

We are now down to our last £2000 and although this is written at the height of the Coronavirus lock down earlier in the year we had already discussed future ways of raising funds. Traditional contacts had already become stretched and I would suggest will become even more so in due course when some sort of normality is restored.

Our walks are free of charge and there has never been any question of asking walkers for any contributions but what we had in mind was a simple request to all walkers for a Donation of £10 towards our funds. With Gift Aid this could be increased to £12.50. Surely not an unreasonable request and of course if anyone felt generous enough to contribute a larger amount that would be gratefully received. We must stress that this would be a Donation rather than an Annual Subscription.

The timing and mechanics of putting this into operation have still to be decided and the frequency of future requests whether Annual or otherwise will very much depend on the response to our first appeal. I would hope that all regular walkers value the benefits gained from our group and would wish to participate. Certainly nothing will be done before 2021.

Denis Fenton Treasurer

Walkers and Attendance

In the year ending 31 March 2020 we planned 156 walks (50 one hour walks on Wednesdays, 48 one hour walks on Sundays, 48 half hour walks on Mondays, 9 one hour walks on Tuesdays and 1 half hour walk on the Wednesday that the AGM was held). One of the Monday walks and 3 of the Sunday walks were subsequently cancelled due to the bad weather. All walks from 18 March onwards were cancelled in accordance with National Policy to limit the spread of Covid-19: this affected 2 walks on Wednesdays, 2 on Sundays and 2 on Mondays.

The Wednesday walks took place at 13 different locations:

Ashtead Common, Banstead Heath, Banstead Woods, Chipstead Road, Epsom Common, Epsom Downs, Headley Heath, Horton Country Park, Horton Golf Course, Nonsuch Park, Oxshott Heath, Poole Road, and Princes Coverts. No walks were held at Horton Golf Course after 30 June 2019 as we were no longer allowed to park there.

Sunday walks took place at 14 different locations (the above 13 less Poole Road plus Bourne Hall and Ewell Court)

The half hour walks took place at 9 different locations:

Ashtead Common, Epsom Common, Epsom Downs, Horton Country Park, Horton Golf Course, Nonsuch Park, Nork Park, Poole Road, and Priest Hill. No walks were held at Horton Golf Course after 30 June 2019 as we were no longer allowed to park there.

The Tuesday walks took place on one Tuesday a month from April to December in Horton Country Park starting at the Old Moat Garden Centre. They were introduced at the request of the Richmond Fellowship which is based there and helps people with mental problems but they were open to all.

They were discontinued after December 2019 due to low attendances and a shortage of walk leaders.

In general attendances were slightly higher for locations in the Borough than those outside.

Around 260 people came on one or more of these walks (down from 300 in 2018-19 and 270 in 2017-18), averaging 13.2 attendances each (up from 12.5 in 2018-19 but down from 13.6 in 2017-18).

66% were female (the lowest percentage in the last nine years). 2% attended more than 50 walks, 24% attended more than 20 but not more than 50, 15% attended more than 10 but not more than 20, 15% attended more than 5 but not more than 10, 22% attended more than 1 but not more than 5 and 22% attended just 1 walk.

64% came on 1 hour walks only, 13% came on half hour walks only, and 23% came on some of each.

There were 60 new walkers in 2019-20 who completed a Walker Registration Form, down from 82 in 2018-19 but up from 58 in 2017-18; for 8 of these their first walk was on a Tuesday (down from 28 in 2018-19 and explaining most of the fall), for 26 it was a Wednesday, for 13 a Sunday and for 13 a Monday. 33 of them had been on at least one further walk by 31 March 2020. 40 lived in the Epsom and Ewell postcodes of KT17, KT18 and KT19, 2 lived in KT4 (Worcester Park) and 18 lived in the post codes of other local authorities including 5 who lived in KT21 (Ashtead).

The 146 walks that took place clocked up a total attendance of 3,490, 290 (8%) fewer than 2018-19 and the lowest number since 2014-0115; this largely reflects the cancellation of 10 walks in 2019-20.

The average attendance was 31 on Wednesdays, 18 on Sundays, 25 on Mondays and 7 on Tuesdays compared to 33, 17, 26 and 11 respectively in the previous year. The highest walk attendance in 2018-19 was 49 at Epsom Common on Wednesday 6 November, the highest Sunday attendance was 36 at Ashtead Common on 3 November, the highest Monday attendance was 40 at Epsom Downs on 9 March and the highest Tuesday attendance was 13 on 21 May. The lowest attendances recorded were 4 at Banstead Heath on Wednesday 4 July (rain), 4 at Banstead Heath on Sunday 13 October (rain), 5 at Epsom Downs on Monday 10 June (rain) and 4 on Tuesday 15 October.

Keith Childs Data Analysis Officer