



South Bank Ramblers Annual General Meeting

13:45 on 4 November 2023

"The Windmill", Windmill Gardens, 100 Blenheim Gardens, Brixton Hill
SW2 5DA

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence

Received from Dudley Cloake, Patricia Cloake, Gill Farnsworth, and Sheila Spooner.

2. Minutes of previous AGM of 19 November 2022 and matters arising

3. Annual report from Chair

4. Annual report from Walks Team

5. Annual report from Web Manager

6. Annual report from Membership Secretary

7. Annual report on Social Media

8. Treasurer's Report

9. Discussion of motions and issues from Members

10. Election of Officers to the Committee

See overleaf.

11. Area Council

The Inner London AGM will be held on 4 February 2024 at the Mezzanine Hall,
Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, London SE1 7AA.

The Area can put three representatives forward for the General Council on 1 April in
Birmingham. Members are encouraged to consider putting themselves forward and
to share the opportunity with their groups.

12. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Jane Baird has offered to act as Independent Examiner for 2023-24.

13. Quiz answers

14. Any other business

Retiring Committee Members.

Election of Officers to the Committee

For guidance:

- All members formally retire annually, but are eligible for re-election.
- Our convention has been to follow the arrangements of many committees and replace officers after three years. This encourages people to volunteer knowing the role is time-limited and ensures that there are new ideas coming through.
- For some roles, an Assistant has in the past volunteered either to help or to shadow the post with a view to taking over when the incumbent stands down.
- Candidates offering themselves or proposed for election are shown in the final column.
- Any members present are invited to stand to join the Committee.

AGM in November	2022 (for information)		2023
Ramblers' year	2022-23	Years to date	Standing for election for 2023-24

Chair	Chair	Hilary Jarvis	3	Hilary Jarvis
Secretary	Secretary	Dick Dunmore	3	Dick Dunmore
Treasurer	Treasurer	Linda Casbolt	1	Linda Casbolt
Walks	Walks Organiser	Eileen Smith	3+	Liz Cleary
	Walks Team Support	Nick White	3+	Eileen Smith
Membership Secretary	Membership Secretary	Barbara Moss	2	Barbara Moss
Web Manager	Web Manager	Dave Hetherington	3+	Dave Hetherington
	Assistant	Nick White	3+	
Other Publicity	Programme & Transport	Roger Bennett	3+	
	Publicity & Marketing	Kleo Zhao	3+	Kleo Zhao
Socials	Social activities	Gail Bourne	3+	Gail Bourne
Inner London representatives (two)		Dick Dunmore	3+	Dick Dunmore
		Linda Casbolt	2	Linda Casbolt
Other Committee Members		Karen Barker	1	Karen Barker



South Bank Ramblers

Annual General Meeting 2022

Saturday 19 November at 13:30

Draft Minutes

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked Roger Bennett for leading 27 walkers from Stockwell, 25 of whom joined the meeting, bringing total attendance to 36.

1. Apologies for absence

Received from Jane Baird, Liz Cleary, Patricia Cloake and Ann Constable.

2. Minutes of AGM of 27 November 2021 and matters arising

These had been posted on the South Bank website. A correction to the text on the past roles of Ann Constable was accepted, and the revised minutes were approved and accepted as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

3. Annual report from Chair (Hilary Jarvis)

The report from the Chair had been posted on the South Bank website.

The difficulties associated with the pandemic had ended and, unless leaders limited numbers, flexibility to join any walk had returned, although a number of walks had been cancelled or rescheduled when leaders had COVID or as a result of rail strikes.

The walks had varied widely in length and style, but new leaders were always welcome, for example to show the highlights of areas with which they are familiar.

Looking forward, the Walks Team would manage the transition from listing walks on GWEM to Ramblers' new Walks Manager system.

The Chair thanked three committee members:

- Gill Farnsworth, who was standing down from the committee, and had previously been both Chair and Vice Chair and a very active committee member.
- Elspeth Cox, who was standing down from the committee, and had managed our finances as Treasurer.
- Eileen Smith, who was standing for election and had agreed to continue as Walks Organiser until Walks Manager was embedded.

The Chair thanked others on the committee and the walk leaders for all their hard work during the past year. When an organisation runs so smoothly, behind the scenes people are giving time to ensure that this happens.

She encouraged Members to read the emails and newsletters sent by Ramblers and to be active participants, and to consider the interesting and information training offered by Ramblers.

She was standing for re-election but 2022-23 would be her third and last year in the role.

4. Annual report from Walks Team (Eileen Smith)

As an overview of the walks programme, Dick Dunmore presented a few summary statistics:

- The number of walks planned (even if cancelled, which has recently been a major problem) has returned to pre-COVID levels of around 60 per programme throughout 2022.
- The number of walkers had stabilised by the end of 2021 to at most around 30, compared with mid-40s previously. Many leaders preferred smaller and more manageable groups.
- The number of walkers remains seasonal, peaking in spring and dipping in summer.
- Around 60% of walks, attracting around 70% of the walkers, are on Wednesday or Saturday.

Eileen Smith explained how, after a transition, the walks programme had stabilised with May to August (57 walks listed) and September to December (55 walks listed) programmes, with walks for January to April 2023 now being accepted.

Following a request at the November 2021 AGM, steps had been taken to provide walks every Saturday, with two Saturday walks 4 times in the summer and 6 times in the autumn.

Rail strikes led to 5 cancellations in summer and 8 in autumn, but most affected walks had been rescheduled or deferred to a later programme.

The group's WalksFace system was no longer supported, and leaders were emailing details of walks for the January to April programme on a Word proforma. The group has been liaising with Capital Walkers, who have been on the pilot for the new Walks Manager.

Eileen thanked all the walk leaders for their continuing support to the group.

Eileen encouraged members to come forward as new leaders, perhaps by offering walks in their own area which might be new to other walkers. She confirmed that walks for the January to April programme could be submitted up to the end of November.

5. Annual report from Webmaster (Dave Hetherington)

The main Ramblers website had been rebranded and restructured during 2022 to make it look more attractive and easier to navigate. Dave had upgraded the South Bank website with the new Ramblers Logo and colour palette.

Our WalksFace walk submission facility was being withdrawn because the software vendor no longer provides support, and we have reverted to submitting walks via email until the new Walks Manager system comes into use, expected to be in the first half of 2023. Dave has added a "Walks Submitted So Far" menu to the website so that so walk leaders can see what dates have already been taken.

Dave's main activity remains processing and posting over 1,500 photos relating to over 100 walks so far during 2022. He asked members to be selective and to submit no more than 6 photos per walk.

Finally, Dave posted bulletins and updates at short notice to inform readers of changes resulting in cancelled, retimed or modified walks, including pop-up walks additional to the printed programme.

6. Annual report from Membership Secretary (Barbara Moss)

Barbara had had a number of difficulties accessing the Insight database, but had gained access in December 2021. Membership numbers have since hovered around 700. As of October 2022:

- We had 687 Members, including 16 Affiliates, members of other groups who had told Ramblers they wish to have news from South Bank. Some members were new, and others were reinstated former members.
- We had 112 Associates, who contacted us directly, but whom we could not confirm are Ramblers members.

Around 90 Members had not provided an email address, and receive letters informing them of the AGM and Christmas lunch. Only 3 Members and 2 Associates responded to letters asking whether then wanted hard copies of the programme, the costs of producing and posting which have fallen rapidly.

Barbara also dealt with general queries about joining Ramblers or the group, or existing members of the former to become Associates of the latter.

Barbara reminded members planning to join programmed walks to check the website and rail websites for planned changes or unplanned disruption.

Finally, she noted that it has been good to send out a programme and welcome message to a new member and then find herself talking to them on a walk.

Dudley Cloake asked how South Bank's membership retention and growth compared with other groups. Dick Dunmore said that groups reported similar problems as a result of the pandemic. South Bank had broadly maintained its size, and remained Inner London's largest group.

7. Annual report on Social Media (Kleo Zhao)



[South Bank Ramblers \(@southbankramblers\)](https://www.instagram.com/southbankramblers/)

Since the 2021 AGM we had made 252 posts, each of 5-9 photos, or a total of around 2,000 photos. We now have 328 followers, 48% more than a year before.

Instagram's complimentary analytics for the last 3 months showed 792 users who had made 118 comments or "likes". Most are London-based, with around 60% aged 25-44 and 30% aged 45 or more. Three quarters were not followers, and this had led to a number of enquiries.



[southbankramblers | facebook](https://www.facebook.com/southbankramblers/)

Since May 2022 we had an active Facebook page, linked to the Instagram so that all information is automatically shared. The account was new but had received a number of queries about walks, which were dealt with directly.

Kleo encouraged members to send photographs of walks to South Bank Walks (sbankwalks@gmail.com), to message on Instagram or Facebook, or direct to her on WhatsApp.

Kleo thanked Elspeth for her support in managing social media.

Gary Whelan asked if the photographs on the website and Instagram were identical. Dick Dunmore reported that, given the different requirements of each medium, the selection and format of photos he submitted may differ between media. Kleo also clarified that to see photos on Facebook one should select "Page" rather than "Account".

Sue Ellenby reminded members that some walkers do not want to be photographed. Leaders always ask if anyone objects to being included and photographers then respect their wishes. Christy Burdock said she was grateful to note this warning at the start of the AGM walk: given one photo of someone, it was now possible to collate all photographs of them anywhere found on the web. Mike

Johnson said that some walkers took photographs before the leader's briefing. Leaders cannot prevent walkers taking photographs, but expect them to honour others' stated wishes.

8. Treasurer's Report (Elspeth Cox)

Full text of the report and accounts had been provided on the website.

The main points to highlight were:

- There is very healthy balance, and the group took no funding from Central Office in 2021-22.
- Only sending hard copies of our walks programme to those without email access has contributed to a fall in printing costs from over £1,800 in 2017-18 to under £100 in 2021-22.
- Income from Ramblers Worldwide Holidays increased from £120 to £250 in 2020-2021. Members booking a holiday with them should mention the group in the special request box to ensure that we receive this income.
- All committee meetings had held cost-free online or at a committee member's home, and all reported meeting costs related to the AGM.
- We donated £250 to Wimbledon & Putney Common Conservators towards footpath repair.
- We had set aside £750 towards repair or replacement of a stile or gate in 2022-23, and Inner London Area Council was looking into where this could best be allocated.
- Even with this donation and other provisions, group funds remained above the recommended reserves level, and we had declined any funding from Central Office for 2022-23 financial year.

The accounts had been examined and certified by the Independent Examiner, Jane Baird, on this basis.

Elspeth was standing down as Treasurer and would arrange a handover to her successor. She thanked Linda Casbolt for offering to take over the Treasurer role.

The meeting approved and accepted the accounts and the Treasurer's report.

9. Discussion of motions and issues from Members

Caroline Kerr said that, as a new leader, she had appreciated the support of the committee and other members, which had been a great help. Jill Gregson agreed that the group had been very supportive to her as a new leader. Sue Ellenby reminded the meeting that formal mentoring was offered to potential leaders asking for support.

10. Election of Officers to the Committee

Nominations for positions on the Committee had been posted on the website and further nominations were invited in advance. Following a vote, the Committee for 2022-23 was as shown on the table below.

Role (Note that different role names may be recorded by Ramblers)		Elected for 2022-23
Chair	Chair	Hilary Jarvis
Secretary		Dick Dunmore
Treasurer		Linda Casbolt
Walks Organiser	Walks Organiser	Eileen Smith
	Assistant	Nick White
Membership Secretary		Barbara Moss
Web Manager	Web Manager	Dave Hetherington
	Assistant	Nick White
Other Publicity	Programme & Transport	Roger Bennett
	Publicity & Marketing	Kleo Zhao
Socials		Gail Bourne
Inner London representatives		Dick Dunmore
		Linda Casbolt
Without portfolio		Karen Barker

11. Area Council and General Council

Dick Dunmore, South Bank representative to Inner London Area, reminded members that the Inner London Area AGM would be held on 4 February 2023 at the Mezzanine Hall, Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, London SE1 7AA.

The Area can also put forward three representatives for Ramblers' General Council on 1 April 2023 in Birmingham. South Bank Members were encouraged to consider putting themselves forward. Christy Burdock expressed an interest in attending.

12. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Jane Baird had offered to act as Independent Examiner for 2022-23.

Her nomination was approved and accepted by a vote.

13. Quiz answers

The Quiz was based on identifying the names of stations to or from which the Group had walked from words which appeared within their names. One team identified 23 of the 25 stations correctly.

14. Any other business

The Chair drew the meeting's attention to the Christmas lunch on Saturday 10 December at 13:00 in The Florence in Herne Hill. Booking details are provided on the website.

Sue Ellenby congratulated the Committee on their work during a period disrupted by the pandemic and other events.

Eileen Smith thanked the Chair for her efforts and the conduct of the meeting.

Chair's Report for AGM Saturday 4th November 2023 (a)

Good afternoon, a very warm welcome to South Bank's AGM at The Windmill.

This has been another wonderful and busy year for South Bank and it has been a delight to see so many different walkers who have rediscovered an enthusiasm for walking and realising all the associated health benefits. We continue to lead walks for the Blind Ramblers and have more recently led an urban walk for the Blind & Deaf Walkers.

We have also this year supported, the Saturday Walkers Club with a donation and a new Kissing gate at Haddenham in Bucks which was recently installed for us by a group of local volunteers: the "North Bucks rRipple" (ramblers Repairing & Improving Public Paths for Leisure & Exercise).

We have a full programme of walks from short walks, longer more challenging walks, gardening walks to special interest walks and sightseeing walks. We are of course always looking to offer more walks. So, if there are any members who think they would like to try leading a walk? Perhaps in a local area or further afield. Please get in touch with the Walks Team at sbankswalks@gmail.com who will be delighted to help. We offer a very good mentoring scheme and Ramblers offer high quality online training as well.

We have had our challenges this year as well. Rail and tube strikes have had a significant impact with Walk Leaders juggling and amending walks to fit around alternative dates. Plus, very changeable weather and not forgetting of course the mud! There have also been remnants of Covid lurking around the corner.

Eileen and the Walks Team plus Dave have introduced Walk Manager and I know that many leaders are now getting to grips with the new system. Compared to other groups we are definitely in the top 10% of being so organised.

Our thanks must always go to those committee members who are standing down this year: Roger Bennett who has over his many years held I believe almost every conceivable role on the committee; and Nick White who has also held multiple and varied roles and latterly an integral member of the Walks Team and providing much needed support with the website. Eileen Smith who was due to step down from her role as part of the Walks Team last year will finally be stepping down now that Walks Manager is embedded. However, Eileen will support our new Walks Team and continue on the committee.

I would like to thank those on the committee for all their hard work during the past year, it is easy to forget when an organisation runs so effortlessly and efficiently, that behind the scenes there are people giving freely of the time to ensure this happens. This also applies to all the Walk Leaders who have been leading so many varied walks. The Leaders also continue to be receptive to gentle persuading. We are at South Bank so fortunate to have leaders who offer such a variety of walks and so many. However, we still need to encourage other walkers to lead.

Finally, I would encourage you all to read the emails/newsletters sent by Ramblers and be an active participant. Ramblers offer training and varied talks to all their volunteers, they are interesting and very informative.

Hilary Jarvis Chair (AGM 04-November-2023)

Walks Team's Report for AGM 04.11.23

We produced three walks programmes in 2023, each covering a period of four months.

The spring programme (Jan – Apr) had 50 walks; the summer programme (May – Aug) had 52 walks and the autumn programme (Sep – Dec) 42. Although walk numbers were down for the autumn programme, we have already had two pop-up walks, with more planned before the end of December.

The walks programmes this year have been affected by several train/tube strikes, resulting in some walks having to be cancelled. Three walks were cancelled in the spring programme due to strikes; six in the summer programme and two cancelled so far in the autumn programme. We are very fortunate that in many instances the leader was able to reschedule the walk to another date and, in some cases, even offered a different walk on the day which did not rely on the striking mode of transport. Obviously, leaders are not obliged to do this and we do appreciate the extra effort leaders have been making where walks are affected by strikes.

This year we could no longer use Walksface for leaders to provide their walk details, as the software is no longer being supported. Since Ramblers new Walks Manager wasn't ready at the start of the year, as a temporary measure, we asked leaders to email their walk details to the Walks Team to enter them on the 'old' system.

On 31 May Ramblers switched over to their new Walks Manager system for leaders to input their walk details directly. All the pending walks in the summer programme on the old system were copied over by Ramblers however, since it wasn't a perfect transition, Dave and Nick had to reformat them. As there were some glitches in the new system, for the autumn programme only, we asked leaders to continue to email their walk details to the Walks Team who then entered the details on Walks Manager. Kleo worked out how to extract the programme from Walks Manager and after some modification by Kleo and Eileen, a programme similar to our usual format was emailed to members and associates.

For the spring 2024 programme and all future programmes, leaders will input their own walk details on Walks Manager, which will be checked and published on the Ramblers website by the Walks Team.

We are grateful to leaders for adapting to the various changes to the walks entry system and thank them all for their support of the South Bank group.

Eileen Smith – November 2023

Web Administrator Report - AGM 2023

Photos

This year, as usual, most of my efforts have been directed at processing the walks photographs that you have been sending in.

Since last year's AGM, about 1,100 photos have been published on our website - about 160 of these are included in the slide show that you have been seeing today.

These photographs span about 110 different walks, which is about 75% of our annual walk count.

People really do look at the photos, in fact in the last year the photo albums on our website have been visited in the region of 18,000 times!

So well done and thank you to all our photographers.

Walks Manager Key Contact

Between March and June this year, Ramblers-IT were implementing their new Walks-Manager (WM) system to replace the old GWEM system.

I was the designated "key contact" between our group and Ramblers-IT. I also participated in a focus group consisting of key contacts from other Ramblers groups.

This role involved testing, reporting issues and ensuring that our own group walks were converted successfully to the new system. (Many thanks to Nick White who helped to clean up the converted walks data).

Dave Hetherington – Web Administrator – October 2023

Membership Secretary's report for 2022-3

Throughout the year, membership numbers have continued to fall slowly. At the end of September 2023, we had 662 members and 18 affiliates (members of another group who have told RA that they wish also to receive walks programmes from South Bank), 30 fewer members and two more affiliates than at the same time last year. This compares with 698 on 31 October 2021 and 719 in 2020.

In the last three months, we gained 26 members and lost 30, all of whom had joined in 2022. Of the leavers, one had moved to another area, four had changed group, eleven had resigned and fourteen allowed their subscriptions to lapse.

We also have an Associates list of 109 RA members who have contacted South Bank directly to join the list, and send programmes to the 91 who have email addresses. Since the pandemic, we have waived the £3 subscription and do not advertise associate membership; neither can we be sure that those who are on the list are still members of RA. I am exploring with RA whether it would be in order to encourage them to become Affiliates, and close our Associates list.

Last year's report mentioned the increasing proportion of members providing an email address on the Ramblers Association database. There are now only 83 who do not, and 9 whose registered emails are invalid. Following a mailshot to our "postal only" members and associates in 2022, a few members have telephoned me to request a hard-copy programme, which I have posted to them.

In 2021-2 the Walks Team asked me to send out several updates to the programme informing members of cancellations etc. (usually due to rail strikes) and pop-up walks. Since walks, and trains, may be cancelled at very short notice, our policy now is to encourage members to check our web site (and their transport provider) for details before joining the walk, and I have only sent out two such messages this year.

I also receive occasional messages from people who want to know how to join South Bank Ramblers, change their email address, or resign. Since membership and subscriptions are handled by RA, all I can do is explain this and send them a link. A more interesting request was from a member who asked if I could recommend a walk for family and friends to celebrate her husband's 60th birthday.

Barbara Moss
20 October 2023

Social Media Report

Instagram Performance:



[@South Bank Ramblers \(@southbankramblers\)](https://www.instagram.com/southbankramblers)

1. Account Overview

- ☐ Followers: 428
- ☐ New Posts (since last AGM): 201 new posts (Nov 22 to Oct 23)
- ☐ Total Posts: 960 posts (since May 2021)
- ☐ Photos Published (since last AGM): Over 1000

2. Engagement and Reach (only the last three-month data can be seen)

- ☐ Account reached: 306
- ☐ Including 182 followers
- ☐ And 124 non-followers

Compared to last year, where only a quarter of our engagement was with non-followers, we've recently seen this number increase to 40%. This demonstrates not only robust engagement with our existing follower base but also an expanding reach to a broader audience. This growth enhances our potential to acquire new supporters.

Facebook Performance:



[southbankramblers / facebook](https://www.facebook.com/southbankramblers)

1. Account Overview

- ☐ Followers: 96 (since May 2022)
- ☐ New Posts (since last AGM): 201 new posts

2. Engagement and Reach (only the last three-month data can be seen)

- ☐ Account reached 436
- ☐ Engagement 523

Recommendations:

Content Strategy: Given the large number of photos published on our Instagram account, consider introducing more varied content like videos, infographics, or user-generated content to diversify our feed.

Feedback Loop: Encourage followers to provide feedback on the kind of content they'd like to see or topics they're interested in. This will not only engage our audience more but also guide our content strategy moving forward.

Our consistent posting pattern across both platforms underscores our dedication to digital outreach. By implementing strategic recommendations and monitoring metrics closely, we can elevate our group's digital presence, fostering more community growth and engagement.

Kleo Zhao

Publicity Officer, Oct 2023

		2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
OPENING BALANCE (30 SEPTEMBER)	Main fund	£2,365.54	3022.49	£2,847.14	£2,306.75	£2,441.77
	Social fund	£1,194.61	1109.51	£1,117.98	£558.84	£158.86
	Total	<u>£3,560.15</u>	<u>£4,132.00</u>	<u>£3,965.12</u>	<u>£2,865.59</u>	<u>£2,600.63</u>
<u>INCOME</u>						
Main Fund						
Payment from Area Office		£0.00	£0.00	£385.35	£1,125.00	£1,800.00
Programme sales to associate members		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£83.00	£335.00
Advert sales		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£50.00	£187.50
Other donations		£155.80	£125.21	£10.00	£0.00	£0.00
Bank interest		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total main fund income		£155.80	£125.21	£395.35	£1,258.00	£2,310.10
Social Fund						
Walking Partnership (Commission on holidays)		£300.00	£250.00	£120.00	£400.00	£610.00
Donations		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£279.23	£289.08
Total social fund income		£250.00	£250.00	£120.00	£679.23	£899.08
TOTAL OVERALL INCOME		<u>£405.80</u>	<u>£375.21</u>	<u>£515.35</u>	<u>£1,937.23</u>	<u>£3,209.18</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>						
Programme printing, postage and admin		£0.00	£83.98	£0.00	£663.26	£1,293.88
General admin		£0.00	£10.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Bank charges		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£21.20	£12.40
Meeting costs		£450.76	£269.81	£220.00	£0.00	£277.90
Volunteer gifts		£0.00	£88.37	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Walk leader training: venue for summer event		£150.00	£80.00	£0.00	£0.00	£40.00
Walks related		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£99.45
Donation to Saturday Walkers Club		£200.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£50.00
First Aid kits		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£33.15	£0.00
Donation Wimbledon & Putney Common Conservators		£0.00	£250.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Kissing gates		£500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£683.89
Total main fund expenditure		<u>£1,300.76</u>	<u>£782.16</u>	<u>£220.00</u>	<u>£717.61</u>	<u>£2,445.12</u>
Social Fund						
Meeting refreshments		£268.16	£164.90	£128.47	£120.09	£85.43
Social after training event		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£413.67
Total social fund expenditure		£268.16	£164.90	£128.47	£120.09	£499.10
TOTAL OVERALL EXPENDITURE		<u>£1,568.92</u>	<u>£947.06</u>	<u>£348.47</u>	<u>£837.70</u>	<u>£2,944.22</u>
CLOSING BALANCE (30 SEPTEMBER)	Main fund	£1,220.58	£2,365.54	£3,022.49	£2,847.14	£2,306.75
	Social fund	£1,226.45	£1,194.61	£1,109.51	£1,117.98	£558.84
	Total	<u>£2,447.03</u>	<u>£3,560.15</u>	<u>£4,132.00</u>	<u>£3,965.12</u>	<u>£2,865.59</u>

RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION

SOUTH BANK GROUP

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 1 OCTOBER 2022 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

The main points to highlight from the 2022/23 financial year are:

- We continue to have a very healthy balance, and did not require any funding from Central Office during the year.
- Continuing the practice of only sending hard copies of our walks programme to those without email access has continued to keep our costs low and help us to use charitable funds as effectively as possible.
- Income from Ramblers Worldwide Holidays increased to £300 from £250 in the previous year. We would remind members that holidays booked via Ramblers Worldwide Holidays can provide a donation to the group, if you mention the name of your group when you are booking. (If booking online, you can mention this in the special request box.)
- Committee meetings have all been held at a committee member's home and have therefore not incurred any costs. All meeting costs shown in the accounts relate to the AGM.
- The costs include both the 2022 venue cost of £160 for hiring St Faith's for our November 2022 AGM, and £135 paid in advance to Brixton Windmill for the 2023 AGM.
- The Committee is delighted that we were able to donate £200 to Saturday Walkers Club for our continued use of their walks as the basis for many of our own.
- We also donated £500 to Bucks, Milton Keynes and West Middlesex Ramblers for a new kissing gate near Haddenham in Buckinghamshire. Dave Hetherington is planning to lead a walk that includes the gate in the next programme.
- Even with this year's footpath repair donation our funds remain above the recommended reserves level, therefore we have again declined any funding from Central Office for the 2023-24 financial year.

We continue to bank online with Unity Trust Bank, in line with the Ramblers requirements. All payments require authorisation by at least two of the three committee members registered as signatories.

I attach summary annual accounts, with earlier years' figures for comparison. Jane Baird is kindly acting as our Independent Examiner and has certified the year-end accounts as a fair representation of our financial activities over the year to 30 September 2023. We are grateful to her for also kindly agreeing to undertake this again next year.

I took over the role of Group Treasurer from Elspeth Cox in January 2023. I am grateful to Elspeth for continuing as Treasurer for the first quarter of the fiscal year, and for supporting me through the handover period.

I submit for adoption the attached Financial Accounts of the South Bank Group for the year October 2022 to September 2023.

Linda Casbolt

Treasurer South Bank Group

October 2023