

Social Secretary's Report for 2017 AGM

Firstly a massive thank you to everybody who has been involved in the organisation and running of events for ECR. There has been a great variety of events over the last 12 months and I'm hoping this will also be true of the next 12 months. If you have an idea for an event then please get in touch with me.

Walks

Since we are a walking group the first thing I want to do is thank all the leaders who lead such a wide variety of walks many of which are themed. Several make their way onto the social calendar, some of the very popular ones are the walks followed by a meal. There were 3 of these organised at Christmas, midweek by David Gylee, weekend by myself and the long walkers Peter and Georgie also organised a walk and meal. In total about 130 people walked on these 3 walks with about 100 eating. In June Ann Thompson organised a walk and meal in Monyash which was excellent. The picnic tea, at MTC in July, was enjoyed by the 20 people who took part in either the medium or short walks.

Other themed walks which are very popular are the New Year day's walk, known as Keith's sherry walk, organised by Lorraine Tolley, Melanie Davy and helpers, who are needed to carry the vast amounts of mince pies and sherry!! Again, John Handley's Ecology walk was fascinating and a sell-out, John Edward's HS2 walk was enjoyed by all who attended, it certainly contained some mind boggling information. I also led a couple of "Ramble with a Ranger" walks which are very successful and encourage members of the public to walk with us. Rosie Forth organised a walk and Grand National sweep stake which was very well received and has now become part of the programme.

ECR has been involved in the Bollington Walking for Health programme organised by Sandra Edwards and Chris Brear. These are 2 mile walks with no stiles or hills. They have averaged about 6 on each walk with a varied rather than regular clientele. Derek Thornley has been on most of them and is an enthusiastic supporter.

The evening walks have been "generally successful with better weather and numbers than last year" says Steve Hull who I'm thanking for his organisation, helped, I think, by Nick Wild.

Coach Trips

Coach trips are next and I'm delighted to say that 2 have been run this year, One in June to North Wales organised by Andy Davies, which, I have to say was a challenge, a massive thank you needs to go to Andy. Another coach trip was organised by Steve Hull and Colin Park to Anglesey. This was also a great success and a special thank you has to go to Malcolm Combey who led the short walk at short notice!!

Trips away

Ann Thompson organised a week end away to Brecon for 35 people, they organised their own accommodation and Ann organised the walks and walk leaders as well as a meal on the Saturday night. A thank you to the walk leaders Roger Fielding, Sue Munslow, Tony Walker and Frank Gay. Special thanks to Ann who also led two walks.

The 6 day trip to the Manor House went really well with 25 people attending. There is a report on the website for those of you who want more detail. Again I must thank the 2 leaders from the centre as well as Sue Munslow and John Handley who both led amazing walks full of interesting facts.

Meals

Over the year Andy Davies has organised 2 meals out. One to the Gurka restaurant that has been used before and one to an Italian restaurant in Handforth. Well done and thanks Andy.

Outings

Brian Griffiths organised a tour of Robinsons Brewery followed by a tasting session and then an optional visit to Staircase House. This trip was a sell out and thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended it. Thanks to Brian for organising it and a personal thank you from me as I knew nothing about Staircase House.

Training

A training course was organised at MTC for potential, new and inexperienced leaders. This was organised by John Edwards with Lindley Education Trust. The 12 people attending the course seemed to enjoy it and learnt a great deal. Thanks to John for liaising with the trust and setting up this course. Also thanks to Caroline Finlayson, Colin Park and June and Ian Mahbon who were there to support the course.

We had members who attended the Roadshow events, finding them worthwhile. More information can be found on the national website.

Finally a huge thank you to everybody who has been involved in these many activities. There is no point in organising an event if it is not supported so thanks to all but a special thank you to the hard working organisers.

I'm hoping that people will come forward at the AGM with suggestions for different activities in the programme There is help at hand with how to go about the planning etc.