MAJOR CHANGES TO MEMBER eMAIL AND 'WHATSAPP' COMMUNICATIONS INTRODUCED

Following a major exercise conducted by LWR Membership secretary, Charlotte Jarvis, supported by Social Secretary, Amanda Siswick, significant changes have been made to LWR email and 'WhatsApp' policies. These impact all members and you need to be aware of them.

eMail

For a number of years, LWR operated with two lists on members email addresses. One was based on details provided by Ramblers HQ when people joined or left. The other was compiled locally based on data provided by LWR members.

The problem was that the two lists never matched! Some LWR members appeared on one list but not the other. There were addresses for members who had died or had left the area. As a result, when email communications were sent out, some LWR members received 1 message, some received 2 and some none. It was all very confusing.

Consequently, the committee decided to focus on one new master email address database but in order to achieve this, both the old ones had to be reconciled. This laborious task fell to Charlotte and Amanda and required many hours to complete, with members providing help on unknown names.

LWR now has 407 members with 276 on the members and affiliated members list. The 'missing' 131 are either members who don't use email, don't want to be on the list or simply pay membership fees to support Ramblers aims, without becoming actively involved.

Access to the list is restricted to the Chair, the Secretary and the Membership Secretary.

'WhatsApp'

'WhatsApp' is very popular with members. Each group has a dedicated WhatsApp forum. Originally introduced to provide quick updates (e.g. Cancellations, Traffic Delays, Route changes etc.) it has evolved into a form of social media, updating fellow group members on holidays, weddings, illnesses, babies (usually grandchildren !) and so on. The problem was that people who were not members of the Ramblers were creeping on to the forums.

Consequently, the LWR committee have introduced the following guidelines:-

- LWR members can join LWR 'WhatsApp' groups
- Affiliated members can join LWR 'WhatsApp' groups
- Non-members may not join LWR 'WhatsApp' groups

An affiliated member belongs to the Ramblers but not LWR. It is not unusual for members of Harrogate, Craven and Leeds Ramblers to join LWR walks and this is perfectly acceptable. Currently, LWR has 28 affiliated members.

People taking advantage on the Ramblers no-charge 3 walk trial offer may not join 'WhatsApp' until they become a registered member, confirmed by HQ.

The Committee have asked all group leaders and 'WhatsApp' administrators not to add people until they have contacted the Membership Secretary to confirm their eligibility (i.e. they are a Ramblers member). Confirming affiliation with HQ is a quick process.

Thank you Charlotte and Amanda for undertaking this tedious and time consuming task

eMail and ‘WhatsApp’ questions

If you are unsure whether your email address is on the new master list or know a Ramblers member who seeks affiliate status, contact Charlotte at