



Committee Report for Annual General Meeting 23.03.23

Dear Members

As you are all aware the MFCG constitution defines our objectives shall be:

To foster and encourage walking for recreation and pleasure...

To pressurise Government bodies to carry out maintenance promptly according to their obligations....

To that end the committee works tirelessly.

Firstly, thank you to all our members for supporting MFCG by walking and enjoying each other's company and especially to our volunteer walk leaders and co-ordinators, you are the backbone of the walking group.

2022 has been a more normal year with Covid having less of an effect on all of our lives. Unfortunately, Long Covid still affects many people and some of our members have been hit hard with it. Hopefully a cure will be found and everyone with Long Covid will in time get back to full health.

Your committee has worked throughout the year to bring extra activities to the group such as the visits to the Ayres Nature Reserve and previously the boat trips to the Calf, both of which were very popular. We are currently working on several ideas for other events such as these and if you have any ideas that you would like us to look into please let a committee member know.

'Manx Traditions'

On Boxing Day several members joined in with the old Manx tradition of 'Hunt the Wren' at St. Johns where we danced (yes, danced, if you can call it that!) around the Wren (not real) accompanied by the fiddle player. What a laugh! With plenty of practice we might get the hang of it by next year! We then enjoyed delicious hot mulled wine on the Fairfield before having a six mile walk in the countryside and returning in time for the North v South Cammag match. It was great fun to watch the dozens of competitors trying to score goals. We are looking into other 'Manx Traditions' that can be linked to our walks - watch out for these on your summer programme.

Our annual carol service at St. Luke's went very well although numbers were down a little due to icy road conditions. Many thanks to those who read the lessons, you were excellent and to those who braved the weather conditions. A big thank you to Sue and the team at St. Luke's for all their help. A special mention to Rev. Jo Dudley for accompanying the carols on the Organ.

The New Year Lunch was, once again, very successful with everyone enjoying the delicious carvery and quizzes. There were also a couple of silly games but maybe some members need a little more practice with making paper planes?!

Our thanks to the Talk of the Town for making it a special day.

We will be inviting members to take part in First Aid courses later in the year. This is a very basic course and is always a useful certificate to have. Details to follow.

Do you have any of the original MFCG walking books?

Updating the website history page is ongoing. The plan is to scan some of the past published books onto the website so they are not lost forever but we are having difficulty sourcing them. If you have any old copies in reasonable condition tucked away in a drawer, please let a committee member know.

And last but not least...Jack Verity and David Leiserach.

Jack is retiring as Treasurer and from the committee. He has been on the committee for many years and will still remain a valued and active member of the group having offered to lead 'special interest' walks on occasional Wednesday evenings throughout the summer. We thank you Jack for all your hard work and good humour.

Due to other commitments and after many years of diligent work David has decided to step down as Footpaths Officer but has kindly agreed to stay on the committee to share his invaluable experience. We thank David for his meticulous reports and all his hard work liaising with the appropriate government departments. Paul Castle has been co-opted onto the committee in order to take over this role with immediate effect to retain continuity.

Best wishes, your committee
March 2023