

RAMBLERS RUSHCLIFFE GROUP AGM

SECRETARY'S REPORT

1 OCTOBER 2020 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

1. Introduction

After my somewhat downbeat report at last year's AGM, I had hoped that the pandemic would be a thing of the past by the time of this year's AGM. I was too optimistic as in October the imposition of Tier 3 restricted our walking activities and Christmas was 'cancelled.' This year the signs look more encouraging. We are meeting face-to-face today and we are holding our Christmas lunch in December. However, we still need to be cautious. I am sure that we all fervently hope that progress made to date will continue.

2. Committee

The following were elected at the Annual General Meeting held on 16 November 2020 to serve on the committee for the following year:

Position	Committee Member
Chair	Alan Wilson
Acting Chair (From July)	Mike Stock
Secretary	Mike Stock
Treasurer	Keith Coxon
Footpath Secretary	Vacant
Rambles Programme	Lorraine Donovan
Joint Social Secretaries	Morag Hunter and Hazel Hilton
Membership Secretary	Rob Turner
Publicity/Webmaster	Trevor Griffiths
Weekends Away/Holiday Coordinators	Angela Dobie and Karen Lewis
Delegate to Area Council	Alan Wilson
Committee Member	Pamela Duesbury

The committee met five times during the year with an average attendance of 87%.

We continued to hold meetings on-line using Zoom We have become reasonably expert in its use and have shared and amended documents. It was not always smooth sailing as I managed to lose my internet connection at the April meeting and had to abandon ship.

You will be aware that our Chair, Alan withdrew from all Ramblers' activities in July to resolve his health issues. I am pleased to report that Alan has fully recovered. He has decided not to stand as Chair for 2021/22 having served for 13 years. He also covered for other positions when required. On behalf of the committee, I thank him for his capable leadership and involvement in

our efforts to make Rushcliffe Ramblers a well-run and efficient organisation. He will be a hard act to follow.

In addition to the vacancy created by Alan's departure there are committee positions that need to be filled such as Footpath Secretary and Area Council Delegate. In 2022/23 we will need a new Programme Secretary as Lorraine has decided to stand down in November 2022. This is a crucial post without which, there will be no organised walks.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work in reacting to the changing circumstances of the pandemic, providing walks and generally keeping the show on the road.

Given below are the major decisions, made by the Committee other than those stated elsewhere in the report:

a. October meeting

Tier 3 Response

Response to Government's decision to place Rushcliffe in Tier 3 involving rescheduling/cancelling walks not complying with government restrictions.

AGM

Arrangements agreed for holding the AGM online.

Newsletter

Trevor undertook to produce a newsletter

b. August meeting

Alan's absence

Interim arrangements were agreed to cover for Alan's absence.

Budget proposals

The Treasurer presented a budget statement for 2020/21. The Committee agreed that the group would take up the basic allocation of £405.07.

Volunteer Expenses Review

In accordance with Clause 1.4 of the Volunteer Expenses Policy dated 22/23 July 2019, the rates are to be reviewed annually at the July committee meeting for implementation for the following year. The rates for the financial year 2020/2021 will be:

Ref Clause	Rates/Limit	Existing	Agreed
2.1.2	Mileage Rate	28p per mile	28p per mile
2.1.3	Annual limit	£300.00	£300.00
2.2.2	Home Printing/ Photocopying	10p per sheet	10p per sheet

Amendments to the Constitution

The proposed amendments to the Constitution were agreed prior to approval by the membership at a General meeting.

3. Membership

In spite of lockdown, our membership numbers have remained constant. There have been resignations but on the plus side, we have acquired new members. As you can see from Table 1 there has been a slight increase in the membership.

I am indebted to Rob for the statistics given below.

Table 1 Membership as 13 October 2021 (Central Office figures)

Year		2021	2020
Membership		30 Sept	1 st Oct
Annual	Individual	174	171
Annual	Joint	155	149
Life	Individual	4	4
Life	Joint	8	8
Totals		341	332
Affiliates	Individual	2	2

Table 2 Individuals participating in all our activities

Activity	Walks	Holidays	Socials	Total
Rushcliffe	121	23	0	121
Other Groups	20	0	0	20
Non members	16	0	0	16
Totals	157	23	0	157

Table 3 Total participation in walks from 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021

	Weekend	Mid-week	Short	Holidays	Total
Rushcliffe	413	195	87	58	753
Other Groups	20	10	3	0	33
Non members	9	1	9	0	19

Total	442	206	99	58	805
No of Walks	54	45	14	5	118
Average per walk	8,2	4.6	7.1	11.6	6.8
Individuals (RR)	74	66	46	23	121

In spite of the lockdown and the restrictions placed upon our activities, we still managed to provide 82 walks for our members and others. 35% of our membership has taken part in one of our activities.

Our membership has increased from last year making us the largest group in the county.

4. Walks

During these uncertain times, Lorraine has continued with the practice of organising and publishing walks on a monthly basis. These comprised 42 weekend walks, 27 midweek walks and 11 short walks.

After a few postponements, the three Dennis Fox memorial walks in East Leake took place. Our thanks to Trevor Griffiths (2) and Chris Sweetman. (1) who organised and led these walks. It was a fitting tribute to Dennis.

However, it was not all plain sailing. In October 2020, the government placed Rushcliffe in a Tier 3 area. This meant that we could only walk within that area and only members living within that area could participate. Lorraine had to either cancel or rearrange walks and email members about the revised arrangements.

Thanks are due to the walk leaders putting in the time and effort in leading the walks. I will make the annual plea for more members to volunteer to lead walks.

5. Walking Holidays

At last, some good news to report. After a gap of two years to our walking holidays, 23 members descended on Malvern for the autumn weekend away. Over the weekend, there were 5 walks of varying length up to 12 miles. On one walk, members were treated to a fly-past of a Spitfire. Despite being scattered in various hotels in the area, the group managed to come together for the evening meal one of which was held in a retirement village. The Saturday evening meal was held in a pub together with other groups including a wedding party. For once Rushcliffe Ramblers were not the noisiest group there!

Those present at Malvern had the opportunity to vote for the next autumn destination and the winner was Bridlington in North Yorkshire.

Angela has spent most of the year grappling with the financial consequences of postponement and rearrangement of the holidays at Derwent bank, Dovedale and Croatia. After many emails and telephone calls to HF to sort out cancellations, credits, transfers etc. everybody has now received their refunds. It was not helped by staff changes at HF and its employees working remotely. Mere words do not do justice to the amount of work, frustration and difficulties that Angela encountered.

I would add that she was very appreciative of Keith Coxon's help during this whole saga.

6. Social Events

It has been obvious to members that there have not been any social events since the cutthroat skittles match at the Royal Oak, East Bridgford on 26 February 2020.

Now the good news. After almost two years of negotiation by Morag and Hazel with Colwick Hall, the Christmas lunch is going ahead on Sunday 12 December 2021.

7. Publicity/Website

Newsletter

Following on from Rob Turner's successful newsletter issued during the first lockdown, Trevor undertook to produce a regular newsletter rejoicing in the name of 'Rushcliffe Relay'. It appears at quarterly intervals and is much appreciated by members. Trevor welcomes contributions from members.

Publicity

Although all approvals have been obtained, the launch of our publicity leaflet has been delayed by various changes outside our control. The latest hold-up is that Ramblers logo is being changed and will not be available until early 2022.

Trevor has also run the website and updated it as and when necessary.

8. Conclusion

There is a feeling that life resembles something like the normality that we used to enjoy pre-pandemic. The pubs are open again; we can attend sporting and cultural events and mix more freely. However, Covid has not gone away and this winter may have a sting in its tail.

It is probably a statement of the obvious but this year has been difficult for us all. The committee has dealt capably and without fuss with the challenges that the pandemic threw at it. I have highlighted some of the issues in my report.

I will repeat what I wrote last year that the pandemic has taught us the value of friendships, social interaction that I like to think, is provided by Rushcliffe Ramblers.

Stay safe and healthy.

Mike Stock
Secretary
21 November 2021