

RAMBLERS RUSHCLIFFE GROUP AGM

SECRETARY'S REPORT

1 OCTOBER 2021 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

1. Introduction

After my somewhat downbeat comments at last year's AGM, it would seem that things are reasonably normal but I sense that people are not entirely back in pre-pandemic mode. However, as you can see from my report, we have had a full programme of walks, social events and holidays.

2. Committee

The following were elected at the Annual General Meeting held on 16 November 2021 to serve on the committee for the following year:

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

Morag and Pamela decided due to personal reasons not to continue in the role of joint social secretaries.

During the year the following were co-opted on to the Committee.

Position	Committee Member
Footpath Secretary	Howard Lloyd
Joint Social Secretaries	Louise Mitchell and Hazel Lee
Committee Member	Julie Lloyd

Mike attended Area Council meetings as Delegate to Area Council.

The committee met four times during the year with an average attendance of 95%.

As you can see, there has been some new faces on the committee, which is very welcome, and they immediately have got to grips with their respective roles.

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. January meeting

Co-opted members

Howard Lloyd (Footpaths Secretary and Julie Lloyd (Committee Member) were co-opted on to committee.

b. July meeting

Budget proposals

The Treasurer presented a budget statement for 2022/23. The Committee agreed that the group would take up half the basic allocation which amounts to £219.50.

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 2022/2023 will be:

Ref Clause	Rates/Limit	Existing	Agreed
2.1.2	Mileage Rate	28p per mile	35p per mile
2.1.3	Annual limit	£300.00	£375.00
2.2.2	Home Printing/ Photocopying	10p per sheet	10p per sheet

Co-opted Members

Hazel Lee and Louise Mitchell (Joint Social Secretaries) were co-opted on to the committee.

Review of Booking System

The committee reviewed the booking system and issued guidance notes to walk leaders.

3. Membership

I am indebted to Rob for the statistics given below.

Table 1 Membership as 19 October 2022 (Central Office figures)

Year		2022	2021
Membership		30 Sept	1 st Oct
Annual	Individual	164	174
Annual	Joint	155	155
Life	Individual	4	4
Life	Joint	8	8
Totals		331	341
Affiliates	Individual	3	2

Table 2 Total participation in walks from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022

	Weekend	Mid-week	Short	Holidays	Total
Rushcliffe	745	226	17	179	1167
Other Groups	29	8	4	9	50
Non members	33	6	7	7	53
Total	807	240	28	195	1270
No of Walks	58	20	4	22	104
Average per walk	13.9	12.0	7.0	8.9	12.2
Individuals (RR)	113	84	15	48	137

Out our total Group membership of 331 we have 137 individuals taking part in at least one of our activities. That is 41% of members.

We are still the largest group in the county despite a net loss in membership since 1 October 2021.

4. Walks

This is our core activity. A glance at the walks and activities report shows clearly that we are operating as we used to before the pandemic. Excluding holiday walks, we have put on 83 walks.

After what seems like a lifetime of service, Lorraine is finally, albeit slightly reluctantly, standing down. According to the records, Lorraine joined the committee in November 2000 and took on the role as Rambles Secretary in November 2001. That is quite a record of service!

I would thank walk leaders for completing risk assessments.

One of my tasks arising from last year's AGM (Item 11.1) was to seek further information from Central Office.

At General Council in April 2022 two motions, one proposing that risk assessments should be removed completely and the other that they should be simplified. Both motions were passed.

The Board undertook to review the motions and while this takes place, risk assessments must continue to be completed prior to group walks.

There has been a reduction of members prepared to lead walks. 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

Our weekends away and holidays have been comprehensively reported in various editions of Relay so I do not propose to go into great detail in my report.

We have had a full programme of holidays and weekends away, which have been greatly enjoyed by all the participants.

We are all indebted to Angela for her hard work and determination to deal with the consequences of 'lockdown' namely cancellations, postponements of holiday dates and keeping track of payments, refunds and credits. Keith provided invaluable support as Treasurer. To say that it was difficult is a gross understatement. I hope that we will be in calmer waters now that the backlog of holidays has taken place and the accounts finalised.

I would like to thank our members who led walks at Keswick, and Bridlington.

I would thank Karen for expertly organising the Bridlington weekend. Everything seemed to run like a well-oiled machine.

Here is a summary of the holidays and weekends away.

Dovedale November 2021

15 Rushcliffe Ramblers travelled to the Peak District for a four-night stay at the HF Hotel Peveril of the Peak. HF walk leader guides led all the walks and as usual offered a choice of walks of varying difficulty. For a full report and photos see Relay December 2021 edition.

Keswick Spring Weekend April 2022

42 members and two non-members headed for Keswick for a strenuous weekend of walking in the Lake District. The Friday and Monday walks were led by ourselves and Saturday and Sunday by HF walk leaders. We were introduced to curling which may seem somewhat bizarre as normally you need some ice rather than timber floor. Steve Naylor mastered the conditions and ran out the winner. There is a full report and photos in Relay May 2022 edition.

Croatia May 2022

8 members made their way to Porec for a thoroughly memorable walking week in Croatia. For a full report see Relay August 2022 edition.

Bridlington Autumn Weekend September/October 2022

30 members enjoyed an autumn weekend in Bridlington. All the walks were led by ourselves. Apart from Friday afternoon, the weather was excellent which made the walking enjoyable. We were able to meet up in the evening for dinner in two excellent restaurants. For a full report, see Relay October 2022 edition.

6. Social Events

Christmas Lunch 2021

Another event delayed by the pandemic finally took place at Colwick Hall. 74 members and guests attended and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. As usual, our resident poet Pam presented a review of the Rushcliffe Ramblers' year. Photos and a copy of Pam's poem appeared in Relay February 2022 edition.

Visit to National Brewing Museum, Burton-on-Trent, July 2022

On a hot July day, 18 members enjoyed a guided tour of the museum. Our guide gave us an insight into the history of brewing and introduced us to two magnificent dray horses. After the tour, we had an opportunity to sample some brews, which was a relaxing way to end the tour.

There was a morning walk starting from Barton Marina led by Ruth.

This event initially set up by Hazel Hilton but after her untimely death, Keith stepped into the breach to make sure that the day was a success.

London Trip September 2022

This trip was attended by 14 members. They enjoyed a private guided tour titled 'Royal Walk' around the Hyde Park area and ended the day with a evening meal before returning to Nottingham. See Relay October 2022 Edition.

Thanks to Hazel Lee for a successful day despite threats of train strikes.

7. Publicity/Website

Relay

Since last year's AGM, Trevor has produced four editions of Relay covering our activities complete with photos. It is an excellent way of keeping members up to date with our activities etc.

It is clear that Trevor puts a lot of time and effort into this informative and amusing publication.

Publicity

We have finally after various delays have distributed 3000 leaflets to 40 venues such as libraries, pharmacies, leisure centres etc. This is all part of a local initiative to encourage people to get walking and join a group. Other groups involved besides Rushcliffe Ramblers are Rushcliffe Move and Mingle and Vale of Belvoir Ramblers.

Trevor has taken a leading role with this initiative.

8. Footpaths

After a period without a Footpath Secretary, Howard has taken on the role and is now looking after our patch.

A52 Underpass Improvements

The current position is that The Highways Authority (HA)) is still awaiting confirmation of the funding that it has requested to proceed with the plan to upgrade the underpass under the A52 near Wheatcroft roundabout.

Howard and Sue Jones are part of the Active Travel Group comprising local ramblers, cyclists and equestrians campaigning to upgrade the access under the A52.

Mike Stock
Secretary
1 November 2022