

	RAMBLERS RUSHCLIFFE GROUP AGM
	SECRETARY'S REPORT
	01 OCTOBER 2022 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

1. Introduction

We have enjoyed a successful and enjoyable year and put the covid years behind us.

- We have seen committed and dedicated committee members retire and we thank them, our existing team and our new recruits for all the work they have completed in this and previous years.
- We have a new band of walk leaders and we have completed many excellent walks over the last year.
- We have attended training sessions to improve our knowledge and keep our volunteers safe and mastered changes to the online walks manager.
- We have been complimented on our publicity by Central Office and continue to be the biggest group in Nottinghamshire. But

we cannot do any of this without our members, so a big thank you to you all for your continued support.

2. **Committee**

The following were elected at the Annual General Meeting held on 20 November 2022 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	Howard Lloyd
Ramblers' Programme	Morag Hunter
Joint Social Secretaries	Louise Mitchell and Hazel Lee
Membership Secretary	Rob Turner
Publicity/Webmaster	Trevor Griffiths
Weekends Away/Holiday Coordinators	Angela Dobie and Karen Lewis
Delegate to Area Council	Mike Stock
Committee Member	Julie Lloyd

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

Position	Committee Member
Secretary	Julie Lloyd

Mike Stock continued to attend Area Council meetings as Delegate to Area Council and Pam kindly agreed to continue as the Minutes Secretary.

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

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

a. January meeting

-Signatories and Electronic Banking

The mandate was finally agreed re the use of electronic banking. We currently have four signatories with varying degrees of access.

b. April meeting

-A Payment Protocol was agreed in line with our move to electronic banking.

c. June Meeting

-Budget proposals

The Treasurer presented a draft budget statement for 2023/24. The Committee agreed that the group would take up its full allocation from Central Office in order to honour our commitment to reimburse expenses.

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 2023/2024 will be:

Ref Clause	Rates/Limit	Existing	Agreed
2.1.2	Mileage Rate	35p per mile	45p per mile
2.1.3	Annual limit	£375.00	£475.00
2.2.2	Home Printing/ Photocopying	10p per sheet	12p per sheet

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 16 October 2023

		Active	Payment Pending	Total	Change
Total		322	11	333	+9
Annual	Individual	163	7	170	+5
Annual	Joint	147	4	151	+4
Life	Individual	4	0	4	0
Life	Joint	8	0	8	0
Affiliates	Individual	3	0	3	0

Table 2 Total participation in walks from 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023

	Weekend	Mid-week	Short	Holiday Walks	Holidays	Socials	Total
Rushcliffe	895	174	51	246	70	139	1,575
Other Groups	38	20	4	5	1	1	69
Non members	35	18	20	0	1	5	79
Total	968	212	75	251	72	145	1,723
Number of events	55	25	4	29	4	4	121
Average per event	18	8	19	9	18	36	14
Individuals (RR)	102	68	31	66	52	74	135

Out of our total Group membership of 333 we have 135 individuals taking part in at least one of our activities. That is 41% of members. We are still the largest group in the county.

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 84 walks.

Morag is doing sterling work to ensure we have a full programme of walks each quarter and we have also to thank our walk leaders for the exceptional variety of walks they provide and the risk assessments they complete. Another thank you must go to all our new walk leaders. We would encourage all our members to have a go. Our more experienced walk leaders are always here to help.

General Council has still not decided how risk assessments will be managed in future. We will let you know as soon as we can.

5. Walking Holidays

We have had a full programme of holidays and weekends away, which have been greatly enjoyed by all the participants. These have been comprehensively reported in various editions of Relay so there is no need to go into any further detail here. However, we are nonetheless all indebted to Angela and Karen for their hard work in ensuring these holidays are meticulously planned and implemented, with Keith providing invaluable support as Treasurer.

A big thank you to all our members who led walks on any of this year's holidays.

6. Social Events

Our Social Secretaries, Louise and Hazel continue to search for different activities and have been successful with the following:

Christmas Lunch 2022

Christmas Lunch was held at The Welbeck and 51 ramblers enjoyed a convivial atmosphere.

An afternoon of Croquet July 2023

This was much enjoyed by all who attended and could become an annual feature.

Escape from Kabul October 2023

A talk by Najeem Sadat, an Afghan Refugee, who worked as an interpreter for the British Council and the military, about his escape from Kabul.

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 and highlighting important national messages.

Trevor puts a lot of time and effort into this informative and amusing publication and thoroughly deserves the accolades received.

8. Footpaths

Howard continues the good work of previous Footpath Secretaries and has been busy with the following:

1. Notts Ramblers Rights of Way Committee (RoW)

A major topic of debate has been how Notts Ramblers Footpath District Coordinators should respond to planning applications for Solar Farms in their areas. There is a conflict of opinion to be resolved within Notts Ramblers with some believing that all solar farms in green belt areas should be opposed whilst others argue that it would be better to consider them on an individual basis and try to influence developers to mitigate their potential impact.

The long anticipated planning application for an extensive solar farm south of Bunny Old Woods has not yet been submitted.

2. Ploughing and Cropping Surveys

Howard took part in the volunteer training with David Wright, the Via Rights of Way Enforcement Officer. This enables him to assist in the ploughing and cropping test survey to be undertaken by Via this Autumn.

3. RoW Training Day

Rushcliffe Ramblers was well represented at this event in Epperstone on 28th October. The course was delivered by Sophie Reindrop of the Ramblers Paths Team. Despite covering much regulation, the day was interesting and informative.

4. Footpath Survey

Howard has set himself a target of covering the footpaths in the West Rushcliffe and Radcliffe areas (188 completed to date) with a view to ensuring they remain open and accessible. Going forward it is hoped the area will then be further split and shared among Rushcliffe Ramblers who will complete regular checks on the status and condition of these paths.

Julie Lloyd
Secretary
1 November 2023