

In this issue:

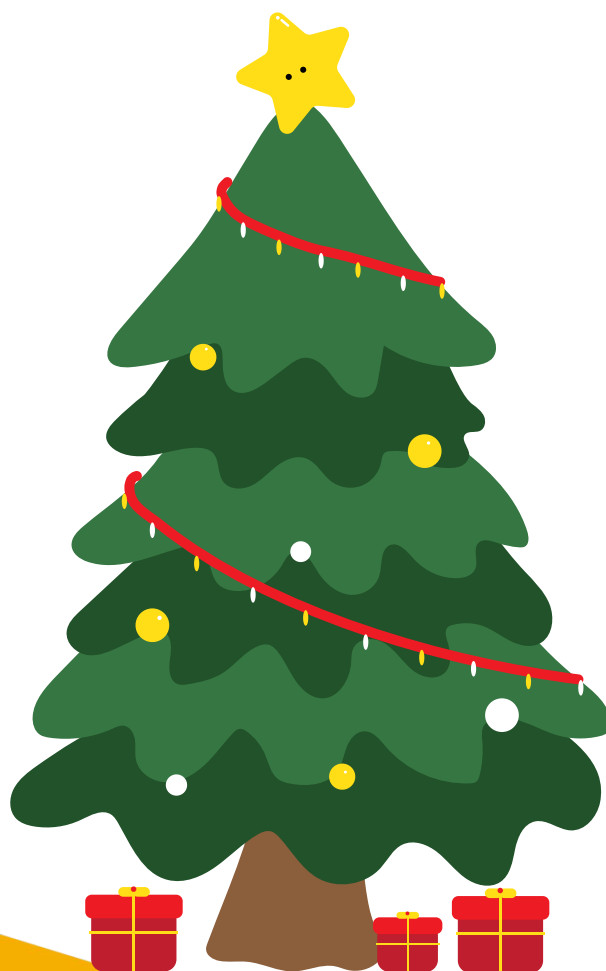
- Out and About
- Our Holiday to Hunstanton
- Christmas Lunch
- Pam's Poem
- Our Last Social
- Rob's Awards
- Committee News

Hello everyone

Well that's another year flown by so here are a few crackers for you to peruse over the festive period.

And don't forget our New Year's Day walk if you need to work off the turkey and chocolates....

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

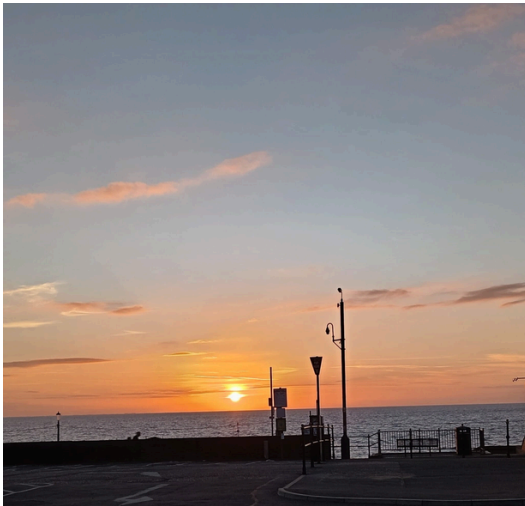


Out and about....



Our trip to Hunstanton in October 2025

We started the holiday with a gentle walk around the Sandringham Estate that took in the old woods, Dersingham Fen and the glorious pine forests of the 20,000 acre estate. The weather was pleasant and we enjoyed the various shops and tea rooms at the end of the walk.



In the evening we met up at The Golden Lion in Hunstanton and had a glorious view of the sunset over the sea. We then adjourned to Fishers' fish and chip restaurant (rated in the UK's top 10 by The Times) nearby where we had great fish and chips with attentive service.

On day 2 we organised two walks out of Hunstanton; Karen led a 10-mile walk along the Peddars Way to Thornham and returned along the North Norfolk Coast Path, while Chris led a shorter walk along the North Norfolk Coast Path, turning inland to Holme-next-the-Sea and then returning to Old Hunstanton via Hunstanton Hall. This path was only open on Thursdays and took the group through the estate's pheasant breeding area.

In the evening we dined at Caley Hall in Old Hunstanton where good food and good company was the theme.



Our trip to Hunstanton in October 2025

On Friday we took a boat trip to see the seals at Blakeney before being dropped off near the Old Lifeboat House. The tides had been very high that morning and so there were several flooded paths to navigate as we crossed the headland to walk back along the beach in glorious sunshine to Cley next the Sea. From there some jumped on the local bus back to the starting point while the rest walked back along the Coast Path.



Thanks to Chris for organising a great holiday (and weather)



Christmas Lunch



On 14th December, many of us enjoyed a sunny walk around Bestwood, followed by an excellent Christmas lunch at Bestwood Lodge Hotel. Thank you to Lorraine for organising a great day, and to Angela for leading the walk.



At the lunch we were entertained by a speech from Mike, a presentation to Morag for her long service on the committee from which she stood down at the November AGM, a raffle, and of course, our regular end-of-year review in verse, from Pam.



Here is Pam's Poem:

Question: What do a rat, a saw, some big shoes, a pig farm and a wooden spoon have in common?

Answer: They all feature in the Rushcliffe Ramblers year 2025.

So listen carefully and you'll find out how this can possibly be,
But meanwhile it's lovely to see you enjoying your tea (poetic licence, 'lunch doesn't rhyme with 'be'!).

We've had our usual packed months of holidays and rambles,
Three and 82 to be precise, and I wouldn't call them ambles.
We were up on the Calf, the highest point of the Howgills,
And the Peak District isn't exactly short of steep hills.

It was in Sedbergh that to Angela we said our farewells,
After thirty years of weaving her magical spells,
Organising holidays in Britain and overseas too,
It seems there was nothing she just couldn't do.
So thank you again, Angela, and thank you to Chris,
Who followed shoes that were big and came up with this:
Three days in Norfolk with not only good walking,
But a boat to the seals - um, where? was the talking.
We saw flocks of birds, then two heads bobbed up,
Was that a seal, drifting wood, or a cute little pup?



Not all walks turn out the way you expect,
Overgrown vegetation often poses a threat,
One option is to crawl through on our hands and our knees
Morag didn't think that would universally please,
So never mind the secateurs, she took a saw to the matter,
Cutting the branches to make the path flatter.
On Tim's first walk as leader the pub had gone bust
So finding a new lunch venue was an absolute must.
On Karen's National Forest walks a footpath was closed
So stage ten was left out, to be done later, it's supposed.
Joe led us on a detour, he said to improve the route –
Was crossing a pig farm better, with what may adhere to one's boot?
Liz gave a new meaning to backpack - not a pack on your back,
But something you forgot, so went back for, to retrieve your snack.

Socially it was CURTAINS for us, a play with murder most foul,
In which Lynn and Adrian were singing, at the jokes we did howl.
Morag held a skittles evening to thank our people who lead
The rest of us on our walks, whose advice we must heed.
This was conducted with a great deal of hilarity,
As it turned out our expertise displayed a certain disparity.
Trevor won a bottle for 27, the best score of all,
But I'll not name the lovely lady, was it pride before a fall?
Who set a laudable record by winning the wooden spoon
Two years on the trot, perhaps she'll win it again soon?
And did you visit the Bell Foundry, to return with ears ringing,
Or did you get in a muddle and were left on ropes swinging?

We were sorry to hear of the deaths of Margaret and Anne,
The latter famed for asparagus, upholstery and of wild flowers a fan.
We were also sad to hear Mike's b&b had a rat on the stair
He seemed unfazed by the encounter, he knew not from where.

At the AGM we learnt 34 members live in Radcliffe-on-Trent.
That Steve, Ryan and Mike were on the National Forest hell-bent,
Doing all 11 of Karen's walks, that Allan Toombs was awarded
New Walker of the Year, by our Rob recorded.

And now it is time to give thanks where it's due,
Which actually means to you, you and you,
As without your support we cannot exist,
And we like to think Rushcliffe Ramblers would be very much missed.
Special thanks to all walk leaders and our committee so brill,
To those who led Flat 5 walks when Rob became ill,
To Morag for running the programme with exemplary perfection,
To Andy for taking over without being forced into election.

A special hello to new people, we hope you take pleasure
In your time spent with us, filling your leisure.

Happy Christmas to everyone, have a good one this year,
With families and friends, and lots of good beer – whoops! sorry, cheer.

Pam Duesbury
December 2025

Our latest Social Event:

A Tour of Taylor's Bell Foundry in Loughborough

John Taylor has been casting bells in Loughborough since 1839, including the giant 11-ton Great Peter of York, cast in 1927, which hangs in York Minster.



In November a group of Rushcliffe Ramblers enjoyed a lovely walk in Outwoods amongst the autumn colours, before moving on for a pub lunch followed by a very informative tour of Taylors Bell Foundry in Loughborough, the last working bell foundry in the UK.



As usual, the highlight of the AGM in November (apart from the cakes) was Rob awarding his prizes.

Many congratulations to this year's winners:

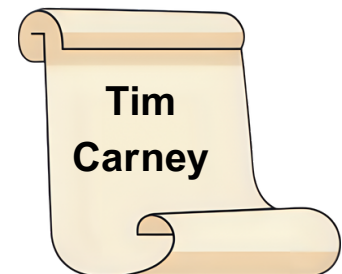
Endurance Award

Karen has led a series of National Forest Way walks. There have been 12 walks in the series and three walkers have stuck with it and completed 11 of these so we have three award winners:



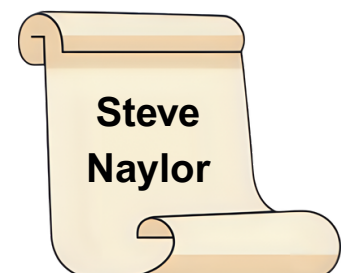
New Walk Leader of the Year

Stepped in to lead his first walk when Rob was ill in hospital and has gone on from there:



Walk Leader of the Year

Steve led the most walks during the year:



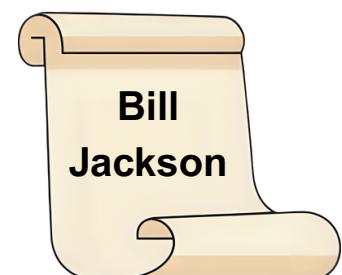
New Walker of the Year

Allan joined during the Ramblers year and has joined more walks than other new members:



Walker of the Year

Bill joined more walks than anyone else and continued to feature as our star backmarker:



News from your Committee

- Following the AGM we have a couple of vacancies on the committee:
 - Social Secretary (or anyone interested in organising a one-off social event)
 - Footpaths Secretary

If anyone is interested please contact Mike, or a committee member.

A Very Happy Christmas from your committee



Sue Jones spotted this photo opportunity during a tea stop on one of our walks



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Check our website for up-to-date news including details of upcoming walks:

www.rushclifferamblers.org