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Hello everyone

This month we report on another successful Spring weekend holiday, reflect on Angela's long service as holiday organiser now that she has stepped down, and remember Anne Toombs whom we recently lost.

First a few Bits and Bobs

- We have a new email address for sending photos and walk reports to the Facebook administrators for publishing on Facebook. Please send your items to facebook@rushclifferamblers.org.
- The Facebook administrators are Karen, Lorraine and Chris.
- I know it's not summer yet even though the weather has been fine, but some of us are already thinking ahead to Christmas and the **Rushcliffe Ramblers Christmas lunch**. Details are still to be finalised but we have agreed a date so put this in your diary now, **Sunday 14th December**.
- At Sedbergh we held our traditional vote to decide the venue for the Spring holiday in 2027. The results were
 - Longmynd Hotel in Shropshire: 19 votes
 - Harrington House in the Cotswolds: 10 votes
 - Nythfa House in the Brecon Beacons: 5 votes
 - Longmynd Hotel is one of HF's larger properties so we should be able to accommodate everyone who wishes to go.
- Don't forget to join the Rushcliffe Ramblers WhatsApp group if you would like to share lifts to walks. Anyone wanting a lift to a walk can post to the group requesting a lift.

Out and about....



Angela reports on our March weekend to Sedbergh

With a weather forecast for rain on each of the three days, 35 Rushcliffe Ramblers members travelled north to Sedbergh. This Cumbrian town, situated in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, was the perfect base for walks in the Howgills.

The weekend started with Friday afternoon walks led by our own members. Karen's 5 miles walk took us over moorland around the Ribbleshead Viaduct. We viewed the structure from afar, walked under it and watched trains crossing over.

Steve's walk was slightly longer at 6.5 miles. Participants met up at Natland and followed a route partly along the Lancaster Canal into Keswick. Then it was off to Thorns Hall in Sedbergh for both groups for a welcome cream tea. At this point we also met our walk leaders for the next two days. As everyone settled in the noise level began to rise.

This was our second visit to Thorns Hall, the first time being in 2007 and our first taste of HF Holidays. Everyone loves the HF Holidays weekend so we have continued to visit one of their houses, usually set in good walking areas, ever since.

The Friday walks had been completed in the dry, despite the forecast, but we were advised that the rain would catch up with us the next day. It would also be windy thus making it cold on the tops so to wrap up warm. Walks were planned for the Dales Way, 7 miles with 500' of ascent; a high level walk above the Lune Valley visiting Fox's pulpit on Firbank Fell (George Fox was the founder of the Quaker movement), 9.5 miles with 650' of ascent; and lastly a Howgill Traverse up to the Calf, the highest point in the Howgill hills, 9 miles and 2,150' of ascent. We all set off in a little bus that was able to negotiate the narrow, bendy Yorkshire lanes, each group being dropped off at the start of their chosen walk. At this point the sky was perfect blue and the sun was shining. The cloud bubbled up in the afternoon but the day stayed fine with good views and became quite warm. During the day most people removed clothing getting down to their tee shirts. It turned out to be a perfect walking day.



March weekend to Sedbergh cont

Our second day of guided walking took us from Thorns Hall on foot to the Rawthey Valley and Middleton Fell, 7 miles with 750' of ascent; a short 5 miles up to Crook and Winder with 1,750' of ascent followed by a visit to the pub; and Middleton Fell at 12 miles and 2,100' of ascent. Another beautifully dry day, just a bit of wind on the tops; perfect walking weather.

The food at Thorns Hall was very enjoyable and there was plenty of it just as we've come to expect from HF Holidays. Our evenings were taken up with quizzes or catching up with fellow walkers over a drink. Our walk leaders were brilliant navigators taking us across the Fells, sometimes where there weren't defined footpaths.

We send many thanks to all our walk leaders, both Karen and Steve of Rushcliffe Ramblers along with Gwyneth, Ian whom some of us had met at Malhamdale and Janet. Without them our weekend would have been the lesser for it.

Thanks also to HF Holidays for looking after us so well. The hotel was short-staffed but everyone just got on with their duties making our time there a memorable one.

We even had sunshine on Monday as we made our way southwards and back home. It had been the most perfect weekend away. The weather gods had smiled down on us.

Some feedback from the attendees...

'the hotel, the walks and company were all excellent' **Jan**

'very enjoyable with the weather an added bonus' **Geoff**

'the weather was amazing, the staff in the house wonderful as were the walks and everything went well' **Anne**

'Thanks for organising a great weekend. We had a wonderful time' **Chris**

'another successful weekend' **Mike S**



Sedbergh was Angela's final holiday as organiser after many years and she has sent this message to everyone

Moving On!

After 30 years of organising Rushcliffe Ramblers' weekends away and holidays I've decided to step down.

My first trip with Rushcliffe Ramblers was to Ludlow in the spring of 1994 where I shared a twin room with Chris Downer. Participants were split between staying in the Youth Hostel or in B&B accommodation. On this occasion we were lucky to find a B&B that could take all those who didn't want to stay in the Youth Hostel. The following Autumn things changed when those in the Youth Hostel had disturbed nights. After that everyone stayed in B&B accommodation mostly spread over the chosen town, as our autumn weekend still is.

The first weekend I organised was to Buxton, Derbyshire in the autumn of 1995. I haven't got information of the number attending but from memory it was around 20 participants. Two weekends away a year was already in Rushcliffe Ramblers' calendar despite its youth, having just broken away from the Nottingham Group.

I introduced walks on the Friday afternoons and Monday mornings making it a full weekend of walks. This was preferable to walking around Woolworths, as had been the group's habit should the weather be inclement. These walks have mostly continued although things did change as a result of the Covid period and Monday walks haven't yet resumed.

We've had lots of fun and laughter on our trips and my reward was seeing everyone having a good time. On our last night at Sedbergh Mike and Morag presented me with a fleece embroidered with 'Rushcliffe Ramblers', an orchid and card. I am very touched by RRs' generosity and all the kind words from everyone attending.

Rushcliffe Ramblers has been good to me and I hope I have returned that by providing these trips for all to enjoy.

THANK YOU RUSHCLIFFE RAMBLERS

Angela

Angela was presented with a Rushcliffe Ramblers fleece and other goodies..



Angela wrote a poem to mark her retirement from holiday organising which she presented at Sedbergh and is copied here for those who missed it...

Where we have been – Where shall we go....?
My time as holiday organiser has come to an end
No more demands, emails or invoices will I send
No more decisions on where Rushcliffe Ramblers should go
Instead, I'll sit back and just go with the flow

Over my 30 years we've been to places far and near
We saw old slot machines and theatre on Cromer pier
We've walked over mountains, through dales and glens
Two trips to Norfolk to walk the coast and fens

The prayer mat has ensured we got sunny days
Walking the coast with a gentle breeze around scenic bays
Dovedale in November in the most perfect sunshine
Sun on Snowdon and Ben Nevis which some of us did climb

Occasionally the weather gods weren't so very kind
But mostly the show continued, none of us did mind
Rain cancelled walks at Lyme Regis and again at Holmfirth
Here Lorraine broke a bench and caused much mirth

Whilst in Keswick we had wind, rain and sleet on Cat Bells
The next day was perfect as we walked the Cumbrian Fells
We sang songs in the rain on a boat back from Tresco
That day we'd been eating our lunch in sunshine, alfresco

On some holidays swimming pools were special features
Malhamdale, Freshwater, Porec where we swam like sea creatures
From Alnmouth we bumbled over the Northumberland Hills
This was one of our special places, relieving us of all our ills

Birthdays celebrated were rewarded with a Pam's poem
Bottles of wine from the bar, some would have preferred a jeroboam
In the Scilly Isles there were three birthdays to celebrate
A difficulty for Pam but she came up trumps and that was great

On the coast from Whitby to Sleights we walked along the sands
Lake Bled, Mayrhofen, Zakopane and many other lands
In Northern Ireland we walked over the Mountains of Mourne
We joined in the Ceilidh, that night new dancers were born

Angela's poem cont

In Lyme Regis, Joe lost his ice cream to a naughty seagull
In Coniston a poor price for fleece as nobody was buying wool
We're still pulling David's leg about seeing the Isle of Man
This was from the top when we climbed Coniston Old Man

We started the HF journey in Sedbergh in 2007
There were difficulties at the Hotel but Ramblers thought it heaven
So, our relationship with HF continues until this day
We'll have a vote for future holidays, so do have your say

Each HF House has given us an array of evening entertainments
Country dancing and killer skittles, all for our amusements
On our first trip to Sedbergh a talk from Mountain Rescue Dogs
We've attempted a whole array of quizzes, with the whirling of the cogs

We saw beautiful sunsets from the harbour in Hugh Town
A week in Northern Ireland staying in Newcastle County Down
A train to the Boat of Garten didn't reveal any of the traitors
Over the years we've produced some very good navigators

The wearing of lederhosen caused laughter on our Austrian trip
A broken wrist in the Lakes because of a nasty slip
We've been to Clitheroe to meet the Pendle witches
Fortunately, not many falls into dank and dirty ditches

We've clambered across a rope bridge crossing the River Wye
Some were brave, others were apprehensive and let out a cry
Alan and his gismo led a long walk from our Exmoor base
Going off piste, Mike fell into water for keeping up the pace

All in all, our holidays have produced laughter and fun
May that continue even though my time here is done
Please welcome Chris, be kind, be gentle and remember
His first solo holiday is coming up this September
Oh no it's not it's October!

Angela



A tribute to Anne Toombs, by Liz Lister

A good number of Rushcliffe Ramblers attended Anne's funeral in early April. Photos of her from childhood were on display.

Anne was one of the first people I met in the Ramblers, and I thought she was friendly and good fun. An active walker, she led walks regularly of eight miles or so.

She helped me with recces. At Tissington, Derbyshire, in February once, there were four inches of snow to struggle through for our recce. We walked to Parwich and back and did the Ramblers walk a few weeks later to slosh through melted snow.

Anne often came on our Ramblers holidays. Over the last few years she walked with Allan, her son, walking shorter distances at a slower pace.

Anne had been a maths teacher. She told me she had first gone to Art School after A-levels but found it too unstructured and changed to do a maths degree! Not many of us could do that! After retiring she did private tuition for young people.

As Allan said at her funeral, Anne was very interested in plants. She grew fruit and vegetables including asparagus and belonged to the Nottingham Hardy Plant Society. She also enjoyed sewing and upholstery and liked choral singing.



Upcoming concert for charity

We have brought you details before of some of our multi-talented members, and here is another, this time featuring Howard Lloyd who sings with the Carlton Male Voice Choir. These events raise money for charities e.g. a recent venture raised £25,000 for prostate cancer.

The concert is at the Albert Hall, Nottingham on Sunday 3rd August at 2pm.

Howard explains “The concert is truly a festival of singing. We are delighted to be joined by Nottingham's Fun Chorus - a great, and large, mixed voices community choir. We think they will have around 150 singers on stage. Concluding the line up will be Northampton Lite - a chamber choir (with about 2 dozen singers) that is part of Northampton Male Voice Choir.

The concert will feature numbered seats, allowing ticket buyers to choose where they wish to sit, making the event even more enjoyable.”

Tickets have been priced to reflect different seat locations and are £15 (silver), £17.50 (gold), and £22.50 (platinum) plus a booking fee.

However, ALL SEATS ARE AVAILABLE WITH A MASSIVE £5 EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT if bought before 3rd June, taking the cost down to just £10, £12.50 and £17.50.

You can buy tickets at: <https://buytickets.at/carltonmalevoicechoir/1667352>



News from your Committee

- Andy Conacher has kindly offered to take over from Morag as Walks Coordinator when she steps down at the next AGM. This is obviously a key role so thanks Andy.
- We still have the role of Footpaths Secretary vacant. If anyone is interested please contact Mike, or speak to Howard to get an overview of what the role entails.



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Like or respond to our posts

<http://www.facebook.com/RushcliffeRamblers>

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

www.rushclifferamblers.org