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Hello everyone

This year we round things off with some sunny pictures and a report from Dovedale, a (not so) festive quiz, a very festive lunch and Pam's traditional poem looking back at the year.

Finally we report on our recent AGM which wouldn't be complete without Rob's awards.

Have a great Christmas and we'll see you in the New Year

Happy Christmas!



Out and about....



Our “Extra” Autumn Holiday - Dovedale in November

Here are Angela and Chris to tell us more.

Dry, blue skies and sunshine and that was in Derbyshire in November. It set us up for some fantastic walking, with spectacular views of the hills and valleys, of which there were many.

The trip started with 2 walks on the Monday led by our own walk leaders followed by a choice of 3 walks on each of the following 3 days, led by HF volunteer walk leaders.



24 Rushcliffe Ramblers made the journey over the border into Derbyshire, staying at the HF Holidays hotel, Peveril of the Peak. Here we were well looked after with great food and plenty of it, comfortable rooms (once the heating problems had been resolved) plus the facilities of a boot room and maps with walking routes, if we needed them.

Comments from participants:

'.. the Peak District at its best. Many thanks.' Geoff

'Thanks for organizing this week's splendid HF week in the Peak District. It was most enjoyable.' Nick

'Thanks for a great holiday.' Maria

'... the walk leaders need extra special mention as they were great.' Louise

'We loved our trip to Dovedale – couldn't have been better, with excellent guides for the walks and a sociable mix of people to walk with.' Jan



Our “Extra” Autumn Holiday - Dovedale in November



The walks showcased the beautiful scenery and only slightly overlapped with the walks from our previous visit to Dovedale.

With the services of HF Walk Leaders our walk experience was enhanced. All skillfully navigated the routes during the day and in the evenings kept us entertained with quizzes and skittles.



The Cheshire Cheeses came out as the winning team in the Dovedale leg of the inter-house quiz, five of whom were Rushcliffe Ramblers.

Well done everyone.

Festive (?) Quiz

So do you know your smoots from your thawls? Or have you ever seen a sheep smoose?

OK so it's got nothing to do with Christmas but see if you can guess what these country terms mean:



1. Smoot
2. Lunky hole
3. Thawl
4. Hog hole
5. Thirl hole
6. Sheep smoose
7. Sheep creep
8. Cripple hole

There are no prizes but you can check the answers on the next page.

Social Event

Our next social event will be a trip to see West Bridgford Operatic Society's musical comedy **CURTAINS** at the Squire Performing Arts Centre, Nottingham on Wednesday 19 February 2025.

Tickets are £19 or £17 for the over 65s (i.e. most of us!).

To reserve your seats please email social.hazel@rushclifferamblers.org

No payment is required yet.

Answers to the Festive Quiz

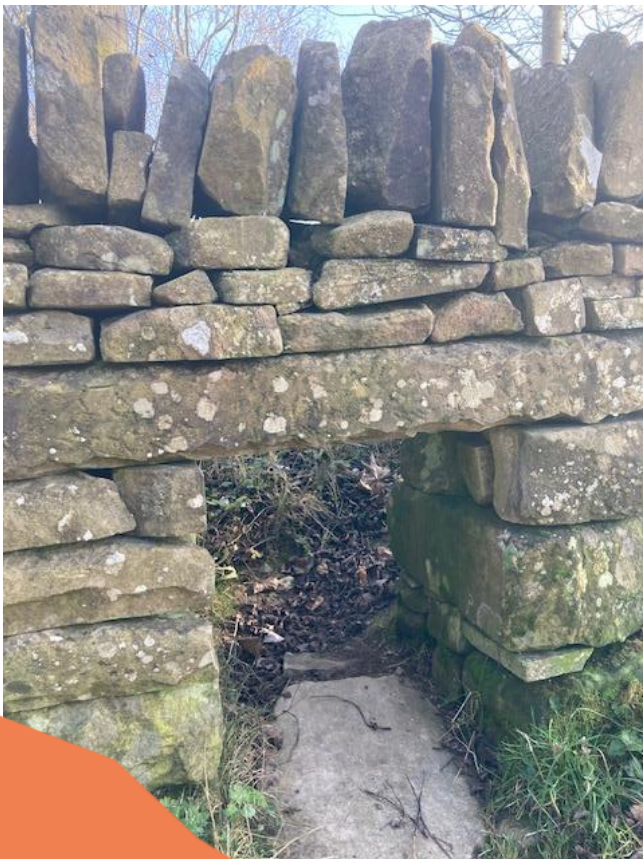


How did you get on?

1. Smoot
2. Lunky hole
3. Thawl
4. Hog hole
5. Thirl hole
6. Sheep smoose
7. Sheep creep
8. Cripple hole

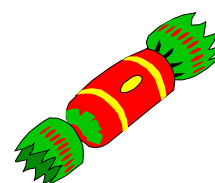
These are all terms for the holes left in dry stone walls that allow farmers to separate out new lambs from the ewes, allowing the lambs access to a feed of 'clean' grass. Smaller versions are used for letting animals through such as badgers or hares. Depending on where you are in the country, they are known by the different names above.

(With thanks to the National Stone Centre)



Christmas Lunch at Ashmores was enjoyed by many...

Thank you Hazel for organising



Pam's Reflection on the Year

As has become a Rushcliffe Ramblers tradition, Pam entertained the Christmas lunch attendees with a poetic look back at the year...

Well, here we are again, it doesn't seem
like a year

Since we last met at Ashmores, so let's
start with a cheer

For you lovely walkers, leaders, and
committee,

Without whom I'd have nothing to run in my
ditty.

And talking of running, some walks have
had clashes

With people in races, doing 20k dashes.

We ploughed through the runners who were having a lark,
But oh dear! They'd left us nowhere to park.

And talking of ploughing, Howard's been doing
Plough and crop surveys, our farmers a-wooing,
So the paths through the sweet corn will be clear as a bell
Undergrowth won't conceal them and make our lives hell.

And talking of undergrowth, on Alan's walk 'twas sky-high
So Angela was lost, we nearly said 'bye-bye'.
For Most Overgrown Path he won the top prize,
In wild, crazy hedges we were up to our eyes.

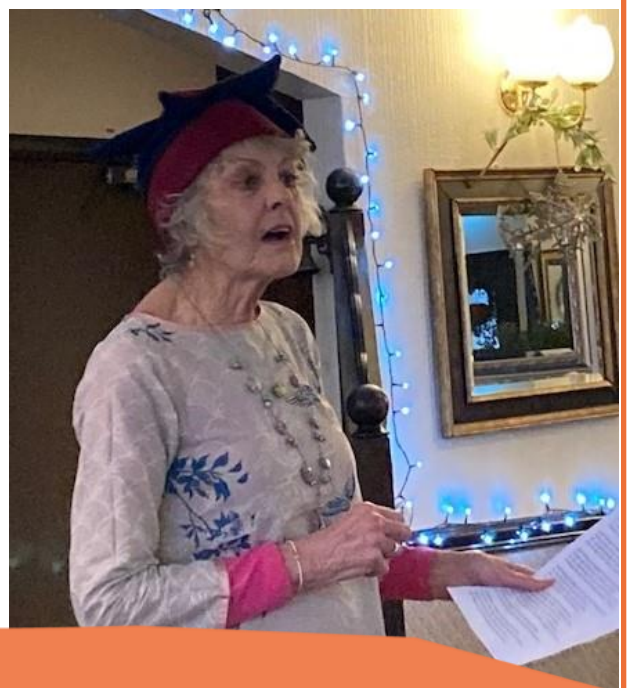


Pam's Reflection on the Year (cont)

And talking of Angela, we've had wonderful stays
In Alnmouth, Dovedale, Llandudno, the happiest of days.
Walks up the Great Orme were an absolute must,
But something about which we became really fussed
Was who'd seen the most goats, not that we're competitive
Except when our walk leaders played skittles, engaged in behaviour
repetitive,
Mistaking a helper for a skittle and throwing off piste,
Till Gone to the Dogs beat the Alley Cats and all battle ceased.

And talking of animals Hazel arranged for us to go
To see Betty Blue Eyes, two Rushcliffe Ramblers in the show,
Which revolved around an illicit pig being raised,
The villagers by the food inspector remaining unfazed.

And talking of Hazel, she led a great London trip,
From Finsbury Park through woods with a hop and a skip
To the birthplace of BBC TV, Ally Pally,
Then train to King's Cross, in Coal Drops Yard to dally.



Pam's Reflection on the Year (cont)

And now I have stories of wet days and mud,
Spectacular tumbles and, dare I say, blood.
Some walks were cancelled because of the rain,
But Liz, it would seem, was thoroughly game,
We were slipping and wading, it was flooded and soggy,
But she won the Wet Walk Award, so it pays to do 'boggy'.
Morag played her part, in the muddiest puddle falling,
With great momentum, I'm told, which she found a bit galling.
And as for Lorraine, her head emitted a smack
As she landed with a thump straight on the tarmac.
Wendy, our First Aid trainer, rushed to help out,
Mopping the blood which continued to spout.
And talking of Wendy, she and Angela walked
A full marathon one day, at nothing they baulked.

This year we hosted our Area's annual meeting,
Laying on walks, baking cakes, participants greeting.
This year Chris kindly raised his hand high (*well just above the table*)
To take on our holidays now Angela's retirement is nigh.

So I hope you'll agree we've had lots to do,
If you're new to the Ramblers, a special welcome to you.
Keeping our limbs oiled is such a fond pleasure,
And now 'Happy Christmas', have one to treasure.

Pam Duesbury, Christmas 2024



Here is Rob to tell us more about his Flat 5 walks

Flat 5 End of Year Report

These leisurely walks started as an experiment back in early 2023. Amazingly, I find 2024 has featured a total of 11 walks,

so that makes 22 walks in two years. Not bad for an experiment. I want to give a big thank you to all of you who have joined me for any of these walks. 'Walk leading' is such a rewarding activity especially when being involved with such a friendly group such as ours.

Year three of the series is now on its way. The first three walks are already on the group website, with more to follow later in the year.

One walk which is due to become a regular event is the 'Christmas Mystery Walk'. This had a positive reaction all round and the chocolate bar treats went down well (many thanks to all who joined in). The trick will be coming up with something different for next year's walk!

If you wish to be added to my regular emails on the Flat 5 series, please contact me on email

robertrambler@gmail.com

Good walking

Rob Turner

AGM - Rob's Awards

Rob once again presented his much appreciated annual awards at the AGM.

For the 2023-24 year there had been 78 walks involving a total of 235 walkers, who collectively covered 8,197 miles.

The award winners were:

Most Overgrown Walk:

Alan Wilson

for Bradbourne in June



Back Marker of the Year:

Bill Jackson

***for the National Forest
Stage 8 in June (amongst
many others)***



Wettest Walk of the Year:

Liz Lister

***For Vale of Belvoir in
February and Shipley Park
in April***



AGM - Rob's Awards

Rob's final two awards were:

Best Food provided on a Walk:

Joe Colls

For mincemeat flapjack at

Muggington in October



Walker of the Year:

Steve Naylor

***Who notched up 43
walks (out of the total
of 78 walks available)
and 388 miles***

Well Done Steve!



News from your Committee

- ⇒ Our 36th Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 17 November 2024 at Cropwell Butler & Tythby Village Hall, following a lovely walk led by Karen.
- Mike summarised the year, highlighting the following:
 - He drew attention to the wellbeing walks taking place every Tuesday for which extra assistance would be welcome.
 - Rushcliffe Ramblers hosted the area AGM which was a great success.
 - Volunteers are requested to help conduct a survey of the Trent Valley Way on behalf of the Trent River Trust.
 - Holidays and social events have been well attended this year and members are encouraged to come forward if they would like to suggest or organise an event.
 - Mike thanked the committee for their help in running the group and particularly to Howard and Pam who stepped down at the meeting.
 - Morag is embarking on her final year as Walks Co-ordinator so if anyone would be interested in taking on this role they are welcome to work with Morag to learn the procedures.
 - Mike congratulated Angela on her outstanding record of service to Rushcliffe Ramblers spanning 30 years. A presentation to Angela will be done at Sedbergh when she steps down and hands over to Chris Slater.
 - If anyone is interested in the role of Footpaths Secretary, Howard would be happy to discuss it with them.
 - After the meeting, Liz Lister offered to assume the role of Minutes Secretary.
 - If you are interested in any of the vacancies or in just becoming a committee member, please contact Mike or any member of the committee.



See Rushcliffe Ramblers on Facebook

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