



Rushcliffe Ramblers *Relay*



December 2021

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Hello....

Welcome to the bumper Christmas edition of Relay, which this month starts by paying tribute to Hazel Hilton, who very sadly died recently.

Beyond that we have a report on the AGM held last month, including details of Rob's awards (always a highlight!); Angela reviews our latest holiday to Dovedale and looks forward to upcoming holidays; details of plans for the Ramblers rebranding in January; feedback from a recent Rights of Way meeting; and to keep you occupied on the long winter nights, a festive Christmas Quiz - with a prize for the winner!

First, a few bits and bobs

- ⇒ Congratulations to Paul Johnson who completed his "2000 miles in a year" challenge in November. He had to buy some new boots though!
- ⇒ Our Christmas lunch is on Sunday 12th December. The committee would like all of us who are attending to take a Covid Lateral Flow test preferably on the morning of the lunch as the event is sold out and there will be over 70 of us at the event.
- ⇒ The new Guidelines for Walkers are complete and have been published on the website under the various section headings in the Walks General Information menu.
- ⇒ We would be very happy to include your contributions in future newsletters, so please contact me on publicity@rushclifferamblers.org if you have any ideas.



Hazel Hilton

Many of you will be aware that we lost a dear friend, Hazel, to cancer recently.

Hazel had been a rambler for many years and joined Rushcliffe Ramblers in 2015. Much of her time since then was spent as our Social Secretary alongside Morag, and together they arranged many events from skittle and quiz evenings, to tours and Christmas lunches.

Hazel was full of life and really did light up a room when she entered with her warmth and laughter.

She will be missed by us all.



Last year, when Hazel became ill, Pam, the Rushcliffe Ramblers Poet Laureate, sent her a short verse on her birthday in the hope that it would lift her spirits a little. It is reproduced below.

Hazel, birthday girl, has a dark red Clio that she loves.
She's not known for the peace symbolised by white doves,
More for the loudest laugh in Rushcliffe Ramblers to date -
Is she in the Guinness Book of Records for that particular trait?
She's a great organiser and an ace knitter, as I've heard say,
Though don't ask her to tend your house plants if you go away.
They may look as if she's purposely dried them,
She's better with outdoor pots, won't have to hide them.
She broke her pelvis on a recce and walked back to the car,
Her recovery in her view took too many months by far.
She's set up Tea Shop Walks which end with I-Spy
The best scones in the area, but *they* mustn't be dry.
We all know that her real name is Hazel Hilton, but
Many others are applied - Party Girl, Dream Team and Hazelnut.

These lines have recently been added.

Hazel, you've lifted *our* spirits a lot with your laughter and cheer,
In a room full of people we could always hear you were here.
We'll remember your strength and your caring, too,
The world has been a better place through just knowing you.

Out and about....



A few notes from our AGM, held on 21st November

About 40 people joined Lorraine who led the morning walk, on a crisp but sunny day:



The main points of the meeting were

- ◆ Mike, as Acting Chair, paid tribute to Alan and thanked him for his long service as both Chair and Committee Member. In recognition of his service to Rushcliffe Ramblers, Alan was presented with an RR fleece.
- ◆ Mike asked if anyone would like to join the committee as we have some vacancies now. Lorraine will also be stepping down as Programme Secretary next year so anyone who would like to work with her this year with a view to taking on her role at next year's AGM would be very welcome.
- ◆ Mike also asked if anyone would like to lead walks. If so please talk to Lorraine or a committee member; new walk leaders are always needed.
- ◆ Keith, our Treasurer, reported that our finances are sound, especially as we have not had much expenditure during the pandemic. He also thanked Angela for all of her hard work resolving the various holiday delays and refunds.
- ◆ Some changes to our constitution were approved, the main one being that the role of Chair will be limited to 5 years to ensure we focus on appropriate succession planning.
- ◆ The new committee was elected, with Mike now officially Chair and General Secretary, Pam is now Minutes Secretary and Joint Social Secretary with Morag.



Rob's Awards

It has become something of a tradition for Rob, our industrious Membership Secretary, to give out a few awards at the AGM, and this year was no different.

Rob likes to mix up the awards with a few new ones each year, and since our last AGM had been a virtual one on Zoom, the awards this time covered the last two years.

The lucky recipients were:

Walker of the Year
Most walks completed (55)
Lorraine



New Walker of the Year (40 walks)
Sue



New Walk Leader of the Year
Geoff



Membership Secretary's Special Award
Trevor (for Relay!)



Walk Leader of the Year - having led 18 walks
Karen
(who was unable to attend due to a pressing engagement in Mauritius)



Outstanding Achievement Award - voted by you, the membership

Angela

Here's a report from Angela on our latest holiday to Dovedale

At last, we were able to take one of our transferred HF (Holiday Fellowship) holidays, delayed by the pandemic.

This was to Dovedale at the beginning of November. The date had been altered twice but this time it actually went ahead. That was thrilling in itself, a bit more normality returning.

Fifteen Rushcliffe Ramblers travelled to Derbyshire for our 4 nights' stay at the HF hotel, Peveril of the Peak. On our spring weekends away, we usually fill the whole house, but not this time. Instead, we joined together with lots of people from around the country. Some were on a guided walking holiday, like ourselves. Others were on a self-guided holiday with whom we met up at meal-times for chat and camaraderie, sharing stories of mud and the Derbyshire countryside.

The hotel was good and kept us well fed with delicious meals including our picnic bags that were waiting for us each morning. The walk leaders did a sterling job guiding us over hill and down dale. The weather was kind to us, not the Mediterranean but mostly dry and fairly mild.

Pam produced a poem out of the bag for Steve who was celebrating a birthday whilst we were there. Well done Pam, who only got a few hours' notice.



And the Ramblers, they had fun, Fun, FUN making happy memories and will be talking about it for a few weeks yet.



Holidays 2022 - Latest

Keswick, Cumbria - 8 April 2022 for three nights

We'll be staying at the HF Hotel Derwent Bank near Keswick which was refurbished before the pandemic. We have booked guided walking with HF walk leaders for the Saturday and Sunday and our own walk leaders will lead on Friday and Monday. HF will offer us a choice of 3 walks each day. To check out the walks we may be offered and the HF hotel go to www.hfholidays.co.uk/country-houses/locations/derwent-bank

The cost will be in the region of £308 each for bed, breakfast and evening meal, plus packed lunches on the Saturday and Sunday. The cost also includes the services of HF walk leaders who will guide us around the Lakes and provide us with some evening entertainment, provided Covid restrictions are lifted by then. There are twin and double rooms available to book. The single rooms have all been taken but, at this point in time, it is worth going on the waiting list just in case of a cancellation.

Porec, Croatia - 21 May 2022 for 7 nights

Guided walking staying at the HF Hotel Valamar Crystal in Porec, half board. To check out the hotel and the walks go to www.hfholidays.co.uk/holidays-and-tours/istria

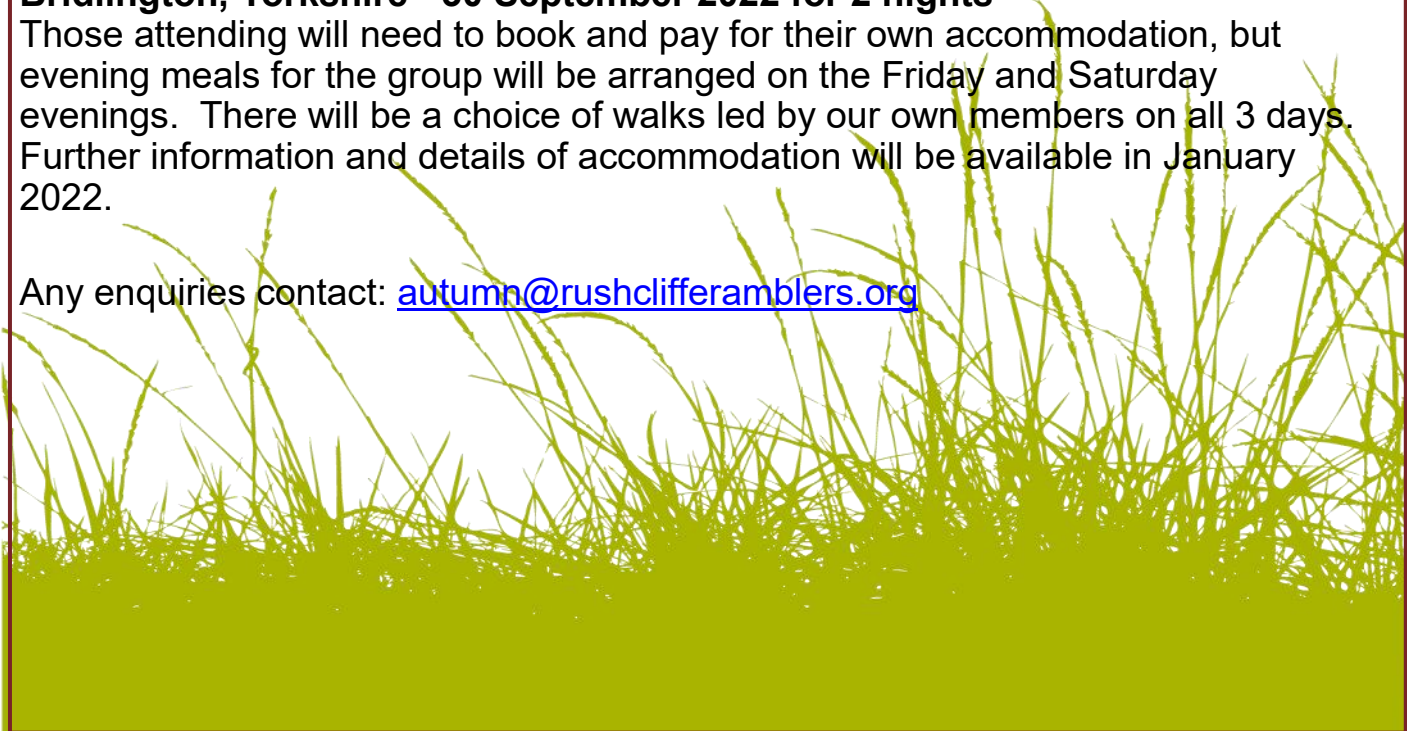
All walks will be led by HF walk leaders with a choice of 2 walks on each of 5 days plus 1 free day for sight-seeing. The cost is likely to be £932 per person with £175 supplement for single occupancy. The cost of flights by TUI from Birmingham Airport to Pula are on top of this and should be booked individually. The price of flights will be dependent upon the time of booking. Twin/double and single rooms available.

For enquiries about the above 2 holidays email: holidays@rushclifferamblers.org

Bridlington, Yorkshire - 30 September 2022 for 2 nights

Those attending will need to book and pay for their own accommodation, but evening meals for the group will be arranged on the Friday and Saturday evenings. There will be a choice of walks led by our own members on all 3 days. Further information and details of accommodation will be available in January 2022.

Any enquiries contact: autumn@rushclifferamblers.org



Ramblers Rebranding

The Ramblers are launching their new brand in January.

The brand includes a new logo, font, colour palette and a new look and feel for websites and communications.

The symbol below represents the new brand idea of 'Opening the Way'.
The papercut creates a path winding its way to create the R for Ramblers.

The logo has different forms, landscape and portrait, to suit the purpose.



Rushcliffe Ramblers have our own versions:



You will be seeing these new changes on our website
and newsletter in 2022.



Interesting facts from a recent Ramblers Rights of Way meeting

Cows and Bulls

- ♦ Land owners are not allowed to keep *one* adult bulls of any breed in a field with a path through it.
- ♦ Land owners cannot keep animals they know to be dangerous in a field with a path through it (so any incidents should be reported to them).
- ♦ Beef bulls with cows can be kept in a field with a path through it as they are considered to be safe.
- ♦ Dairy bulls, on the other hand, are not considered safe so cannot be kept in a field with a path through it, even with accompanying cows.



Ploughed Paths

The following table summarises what a land owner should do regarding ploughing fields and restoring paths:

Ploughing & Cropping

	Quick Ploughing & Cropping Reference Guide		
	Footpath	Bridleway	Byways and Other Paths
Can I plough a cross-field path?	Yes	Yes	No
What should I do after I have ploughed a cross-field path?	Within 14 days, restore the path so it has a level and even surface and the route is clearly visible		n/a
What width should be free of vegetation on a cross-field path?	1m	2m	3m
Can I plough a field edge path?	No	No	No
What width should be free of vegetation on a field edge path?	1.5m	3m	5m

Minimum widths

Taken from Cambridgeshire County Council's
Public Rights of Way: A guide for landowners and farmers



Welcome to the Christmas Quiz -



**a mix of festive trivia, the RR Relay back catalogue,
and other stuff that caught my eye!**

You've been for a nice walk on a cold, crisp day and now the long, dark evening awaits, so what are you going to do? Well - the Rushcliffe Ramblers Christmas Quiz of course!

There will be a prize for first place (drawn out of a hat if there is more than one top score entry).

Please send your answers to Publicity@rushclifferamblers.org

1. The Royal Museums Greenwich believe the star the three wise men followed was potentially a conjunction of **Jupiter** (the King of the planets), **Regulus** (Latin for 'Prince') and one other planet. The combination of all three objects so close in the sky could have led to the interpretation of the 'King of Kings' being born. What was the other planet?
2. What is the name of the disc used to propel the winks in the game of tiddlywinks?
3. In the first issue of Rushcliffe Ramblers Relay, what had the membership numbers increased to?
4. When did time immemorial begin?
5. A short story featuring a Nutcracker and a Mouse King was first performed as a ballet in 1892 with a score by Tchaikovsky. On what day does the story take place?
6. What is the difference between a Restricted Byway and a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT)?
7. In which Bond film does Dr Christmas Jones feature?
8. Started as an organised activity in Sweden, "plogging" combines jogging with doing what?
9. This long, oval, German fruit bread with a roll of marzipan down its middle is supposed to represent the Christ child wrapped in swaddling clothes - what is it called?
10. What does it mean to plodge? (Hint RR Relay January 2021)
11. In Sweden, many people start the festive celebrations on 13th December. How?
12. In which carol does the lowing of the cattle wake the infant Jesus?
13. How many miles is the Notts Clock Walk? (Hint RR Relay March 2021)
14. What is the Grinch's dog called?
15. Which character declares "Merry Christmas, one and all!" in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol?
16. How many loaves will a hectare of wheat produce? (Hint RR Relay August 2021)

Christmas Quiz continued....

17. How many walkers completed the final Dennis Fox memorial walk in September? (Hint RR Relay Oct 2021)
18. In which country do naughty children get rotting potatoes in their shoes?
19. What was the first Christmas song played in space?
20. To the nearest hundred, approximately how many houses does Santa have to visit every second on Christmas Eve to cover the world?

Please send your answers to Publicity@rushclifferamblers.org. Good luck!



Don't forget our website for up-to-date news including details of walks that we are planning:

www.rushclifferamblers.org