

Rushcliffe Ramblers *Relay*



February 2022

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Hello....

Welcome to the new look Relay, which as you can see has adopted the new Ramblers logo and colour scheme - hope you like it!

This month we take a quick look back at Christmas - with photos and Pam's poem from the lunch and the answers to the quiz, then look forward to upcoming holidays and news of some winning photographers amongst our ranks....

First, a few bits and bobs

- ⇒ Congratulations to Linda Barrett who won a bottle of wine in our Christmas Quiz - and answered every question correctly too! Well done Linda.
- ⇒ Good news for footpaths! The government have scrapped the deadline for registering forgotten paths, which had been set for 2026. So we can continue to apply to get historical footpaths added to official maps and give them legal protection. The Ramblers "Don't Lose Your Way" campaign has identified over 41,000 miles of potential rights of way to be investigated. Click [here](#) for more.
- ⇒ A new Walks Manager is due to be launched in March. This will replace the current Group Walks and Events Manager known as GWEM which is the tool that holds details of all of our walks and is published on our website. This means that walks from March onwards will start to use the new tool and you will see a slightly different format.
- ⇒ And talking of walks, it's great to see so many walks being organised - well done Lorraine and the Walk Leaders. It really feels as if we are getting back to normal with a total of 8 walks planned for March, including 3 midweek walks and distances from 5 to 12 miles. So make the most of that Spring weather and get booking....



Out and about....



Christmas Lunch



Christmas Lunch - Pam's Poem

After another epic poem reading by Pam, we thought you might like to see it again....

REVIEW OF 2020/2021

Performed at the Rushcliffe Ramblers Christmas Lunch 2021

The first thing to say is we're so glad you're here.
Welcome to a world where we don't have to peer
Over masks or walk apart or in groups ultra-tiny -
Now we can enjoy the fresh air, sultry or briny.
A special hello to our virgin lunchers out there,
We hope you're enjoying the time that we share.
So what did we do in the two years gone by?
Not for us the tending of a withered bonsai.
We played skittles with speeds from feeble to fast -
Neil was christened 'Exocet', such was his blast.
Brenda had a penchant for hitting the ceiling,
Hubby had highest score, a bit more appealing.
Do you remember the weather early last year?
Atrocious – walks cancelled - we all thought 'oh dear'.
But it was 'oh double dear' when lockdown arrived,
We had to find ways round it to ensure we survived.
When able, small group walks were eagerly offered,
Plus a virtual walk online was digitally proffered.
We zoomed our committee meetings with varying success,
We could hear and we could see – well, more or less.
Who had the best bookcase? Were the wine-glasses concealed?
We kept changing backgrounds from river to field.
Postponements prevailed – was Keswick off or was it on?
Croatia, Christmas lunch, the brewery, has anyone gone?
Unfortunately no, all moved, but this year, hurrah!
We walked in Dovedale and Malvern keeping covid at bay.



Continued...



Pam's Poem

In Malvern a Spitfire wing-waggled on high,
We dined in a retirement home – sign here, don't be shy.
We also stepped out remembering our friend Dennis Fox;
Mike aka Jesus tried water-walking but just got wet socks.
Angela threw down the gauntlet and five girls set out
To walk a marathon, their stamina wasn't in doubt.
Average age 67, they all stuck the course,
I think I'd have cheated and borrowed a horse.
Rob sent out newsletters, Trevor took up the reins,
We thank you for the info, the photos and games.
Trevor passed on old vocab, with his 'hirple' and 'plodge',
And his 'smile paths' created round puddles to dodge.
Thanks to committee and walk leaders, who kept us all going,
We're the largest group in Notts, and yes, we're still growing.
At the AGM Rob gave awards for all manner of stuff,
Most walks, most led, unsung hero, and if that wasn't enough
A new one for outstanding achievement voted by us,
Which Angela won for her dedication without any fuss
To sorting out cancellations and postponements rife,
I'm surprised she hasn't gone ga-ga, such was the strife.
I can't finish this poem without wanting to remember
Our lovely friend Hazel who died in November.
Let us think of her cheer and her vibrancy, too,
Which I now on her behalf pass on to you.
It's lovely to see you face-to-face here
And I wish you a Christmas full of hope for next year.

Pam Duesbury
November 2021



Christmas Quiz Answers

Congratulations to Linda for getting every answer correct and winning a bottle of wine.

For the rest of you, here are the answers....

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?
Answer: Venus (the symbol of birth).
2. What is the name of the disc used to propel the winks in the game of tiddlywinks?
Answer: Squidger
3. In the first issue of Rushcliffe Ramblers Relay, what had the membership numbers increased to? Answer: 332
4. When did time immemorial begin? Answer: it is based on the accession of King Richard the Lionheart which was 6th July 1189
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?
Answer: Christmas Eve
6. What is the difference between a Restricted Byway and a Byway open to all Traffic (BOAT)? Answer: The former does not allow motorised vehicles.
7. In which Bond film does Dr Christmas Jones feature? Answer: The World is Not Enough
8. Started as an organised activity in Sweden, "plogging" combines jogging with doing what?
Answer: Picking up litter
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? Answer: Stollen
10. What does it mean to Plodge? (Hint - RR Relay January 2021). Answer: to wade through mud.
11. In Sweden, many people start the festive celebrations on 13th December. How?
Answer: they celebrate St Lucia.
12. In which carol does the lowing of the cattle wake the infant Jesus?
Answer: Away in a Manger
13. How many miles is the Notts Clock Walk? (Hint RR Relay March 2021) Answer: 60
14. What is the Grinch's dog called? Answer: Max
15. Which character declares "Merry Christmas, one and all!" in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol? Answer: Tiny Tim
16. How many loaves will a hectare of wheat produce? (Hint RR Relay August 2021) A: 11,500
17. How many walkers completed the final Dennis Fox memorial walk in September? (Hint RR Relay Oct 2021) Answer: 17
18. In which country do naughty children get rotting potatoes in their shoes? Answer: Iceland
19. What was the first Christmas song played in space? Answer: Jingle Bells
20. To the nearest hundred, approximately how many houses does Santa have to visit every second on Christmas Eve to cover the world? Answer: 832

Ramblers Rebranding

The national Ramblers rebranding is well under way with the new website running alongside the old one for a few weeks before switching across completely in March.



The new website has been designed to make it easier to find information and has removed many of the old obsolete pages. The rebranding has included the new logo (with a path running through the middle of it representing the brand idea of “Opening the Way”), a new colour palette and templates.

Apart from the new-look Relay, the [Rushcliffe Ramblers](#) website has also been updated to reflect the new style so please check it out.

Summer Holiday Update

Croatia 2022

Our summer holiday this year is to Croatia, staying on the sea front at Porec. If you are toying with the idea of joining the group you might find these two BBC programmes on iplayer of interest:

The first programme visits ‘Amazing Hotels around the World’. This edition visits Rovinj, Croatia which is just down the coast from Porec and although it concentrates on a particular hotel, it does show some scenes of the old town and the coast. Watch it here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0012kq1>

The second has Monty Don visiting gardens in Croatia, including ones on the Istrian Peninsula where we’ll be staying. Watch it here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0013dnd>

More information about our 7 nights walking holiday departing on 21 May 2022 can be found on our website at www.rushclifferamblers.org or by emailing holidays@rushclifferamblers.org

And don't forget we are off to Keswick soon (on 8th April) for a weekend by Derwent Water. Places are still available if you haven't booked yet.....



Notts Area Photo competition

In the October edition of Relay we mentioned the photo competition being run by Notts Area Ramblers, which had the theme of Hidden Nottinghamshire. The winners were announced at their recent AGM and we are pleased to say that three Rushcliffe Ramblers members were prize winners.

In 2nd place was Sue Jones with “For My Eyes Only”:



In 3rd place was Lynn Baldwick who took this at Skylarks nature reserve and called it “That Sinking Feeling”:



Notts Area Photo competition

In 5th place was Neil Stafford who took this at Vicar Water, hence the title “A Popular Parish”:



And in case you were wondering who won first prize, it was Annick Bootman from the Worksop Ramblers group, who took this photograph on the Chesterfield canal at Shireoaks and called it “A Misty Stroll”.



News from the Committee

⇒ We are very happy to introduce two new committee members who were co-opted at our last meeting in January (pending formal election at the AGM):

- Howard Lloyd has joined as Footpaths Secretary
- Julie Lloyd has joined as committee member without portfolio

Both are relatively new joiners to Rushcliffe Ramblers but have already clocked up several walks.

⇒ We wanted to remind everyone about ICE (In Case of Emergency) cards. The Ramblers recommend that all walkers carry one of these as they contain important information such as medication, allergies and contact details, should you be taken ill on a walk. This is particularly important if you have medication with you that needs to be administered or you have allergies. We suggest you complete one and keep it in your rucksack, just in case. As part of the rebranding, the Ramblers have revised these cards but have said that the old style ones are still perfectly good and stocks of these should be used up. So if you have not yet completed a card please ask a committee member or your Walk Leader on your next walk and we will get one to you. In addition you may like to hold emergency details on your 'phone.

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

www.rushclifferamblers.org