

Rushcliffe Ramblers *Relay*



May 2022

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Hello....

May is National Walking Month, an annual celebration of walking when we are all encouraged to walk at least 20 minutes a day. So a perfect time for this edition of Relay, in which we report on our successful weekend in Keswick, look forward to our first social event for a while, and make plans for the autumn weekend, summer 2023 and beyond that to 2024, taking a small detour via Bendalls Clump.

First, a few bits and bobs

- ⇒ Calling all Walk Leaders! Lorraine is looking for new walks for the summer - July, August and September - so if you have a walk in mind, now is the time to check it out and send the details to Lorraine. These could be weekend or midweek walks, with or without a pub lunch. Or if you want to reserve a date and then send the walk details later, please get in touch with Lorraine: programme@rushclifferamblers.org
- ⇒ If you would like to try leading a walk but haven't yet signed up, Lorraine or any other committee member would be happy to talk to you about what it involves.
- ⇒ The launch of the new Walks Manager has been delayed due to some technical issues and we don't yet have a revised launch date. This means we will continue to use the existing Group Walks and Events Manager known as GWEM for the foreseeable future.
- ⇒ After our success in the last Notts Area photo competition (as reported in the previous edition of Relay), lets see what we can achieve with the latest competition. The theme is 'Bright and Beautiful' and you have until 31st October to submit up to three photos. So get snapping and good luck!



Out and about....



Rushcliffe Ramblers in the Lakes

After three years of planning with the transferring of dates, cancellations, bookings and re-bookings we finally made it to Keswick for our spring 2022 weekend away. It was worth waiting for as we had the most fantastic time. The walks, the hotel and the weather all contributed to making this a special weekend.

42 Ramblers members and 2 non-members headed north. We had walks planned for the Friday and Monday led by our own members and walks on Saturday and Sunday led by HF Volunteer walk leaders. Some of the walks were quite tough particularly the climb up Scafell Pike with its boulder fields, rock climbing and scrambling. Those who attempted the climb were rewarded with views towards the Solway Firth to the north and the Lakeland hills to the east and south with outstanding visibility. Everyone was tired at the end but feeling good with the sense of achievement.

The easier walking group enjoyed a few energetic climbs around the bottom of Barrow and Blencathra. Travelling at a nice easy pace they were able to take in the views across Derwentwater, along the River Derwent and up to the surrounding hills including Cat Bells and Causey Pike. One walk visited Newlands Church which had given Wordsworth inspiration. The medium group also attempted some good climbs. They visited the tops of Barrow, Outerside and Watendlath and returned from one walk along Cat Bells Terrace.

The walk leaders also provided us with some evening entertainment. A round Britain quiz and a hilarious attempt at Curling. Steve Naylor was our champion Curler (is that the right word?).



Rushcliffe Ramblers in the Lakes



Mike, our Chair, gave thanks to the hotel staff, the walk leaders, both HF and our own, and then went on to present Lynn Baldwick with her prize from the Area photo competition. He then presented a card to me signed with thanks from the whole group for making the weekend possible despite all the difficulties along the way.

Photos of the weekend including those taken by John, one of the HF walk leaders, have been posted on our Facebook page and on our website.

Angela Dobie



A selection of comments from attendees:

'I really enjoyed it' – Wilma

'a very enjoyable few days – all your work appreciated' – Geoff

'Thanks for organizing the weekend, we really enjoyed it. You even organized the weather.' – Adrian and Lynn

'it was an excellent weekend, as usual' – Lorraine

'The weekend was wonderful. Thank you ... and to all the Rushcliffe Ramblers who were so welcoming, sociable and friendly.' – Tim

'It was a wonderful weekend and I really enjoyed it.' – Nicky

'I enjoyed the weekend immensely. I realized what we had missed during the isolation ... which is the social contact' – Mike

'I had another wonderful walk this morning ... Can't thank you enough for your arrangement and care for this whole trip.' - Lingling





And the winner is.....



During our stay at Derwent Bank, participants voted for our 2024 HF Holidays spring weekend away.

Sedburgh and Alnmouth were the top contenders with Alnmouth racing ahead to be the winner.

The date for this 3-night weekend will be announced and bookings taken from April 2023.



Bendalls Clump

On a recent walk, we passed a small woodland whose name was Bendalls Clump, and that got me thinking: when is a woodland not a woodland? After some googling, here is what I found.

A national forest inventory of woodland in 2015 by the Forestry Commission, defined a woodland as a minimum of 0.5 hectares under stands of trees with, or with the potential to achieve, tree crown cover of more than 20%. The minimum width for woodland is 20m.

But of course, it's never simple, is it? What about a copse? Or a spinney? Or even a forest?

A copse is typically a thicket of small trees or shrubs. In the UK we also sometimes call a small copse a spinney, especially if it has been planted as shelter for game birds.

Oh, I forgot, what about a grove? A grove is a group of trees with minimal or no undergrowth, such as an orchard planted solely for fruit. A grove can be just a handful of trees or many acres in size.

So what about a forest? Although the modern use of the term 'forest' refers to an area of wooded land, this was not always the case. The original medieval meaning was similar to 'preserve', for example land that was kept for a specific purpose such as royal hunting. So forests were areas large enough to support species such as wolves and deer for game hunting, and they encompassed habitats such as heaths, open grassland and farmland.

Today's National Forest covers 200 square miles straddling parts of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire. When it was initiated in 1991 woodland covered about 6% of the area, now after planting 9 million trees, woodland cover has more than trebled to 21% and the target is to get to about a third in total, involving planting of about 20 million trees.

Today, particularly in the UK, we use "forest" as a term to describe larger areas of woodland, but more globally the term encompasses six types of forest:

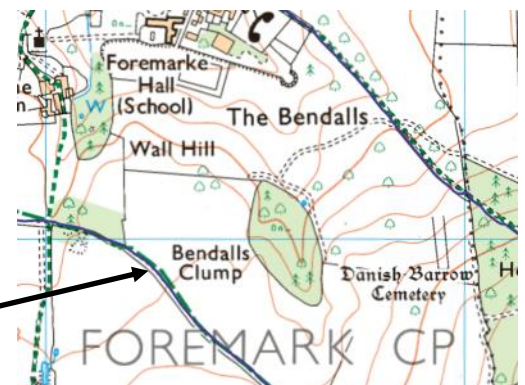
- ⇒ Tropical evergreen forests
- ⇒ Tropical deciduous forests
- ⇒ Temperate evergreen forests
- ⇒ Temperate deciduous forests
- ⇒ Mediterranean vegetation
- ⇒ Coniferous forests

Confused yet?

So, what about poor old Bendalls Clump?

Well, a clump is a noun that isn't confined to trees at all; it means a group of things clustered together or even clumps of soil, which when they are stuck to our boots we know all about.

And despite my research, I couldn't discover why Bendall only had a clump and not a wood. Perhaps it was just size, but we may never know...



A couple of dates for your diary

The long-awaited Brewery Tour, originally scheduled for 2020, has been rearranged for this summer:

Saturday 16th July THE NATIONAL BREWERY CENTRE - THE FULL FLAGON TOUR

Venue: The National Brewery Centre, Horninglow Street,
BURTON-ON-TRENT, Staffs DE14 1NG

Time: 2.15pm at the Main Reception

We will be having a 2-hour Group Guided Tour across the historic museum where we will hear about the history, art and fun of brewing followed by a beer-tasting session in the Brewery Tap Bar.

Afterwards members will be able to visit The Brewery Tap Bar and Restaurant which offers snacks, beverages and a choice of traditional ales.

Cost of the tour: £11 per person (including drink tokens).

Plentiful parking is available at The Brewery Centre. Access for visitors with disabilities and especially for those using wheelchairs is restricted. **The tour is limited to 25 places so book early.**

In the morning an optional walk has been arranged which will be led by Ruth:

Saturday 16th July 10am 5.25 Miles

DUNSTALL ESTATE

Walk Grade: Leisurely Pace: Moderate

From Barton Marina, the walk passes through Barton-under-Needwood and into the Dunstall Estate, we follow footpaths and tracks through woodlands and open countryside, with about a quarter mile of road walking. There will be a short coffee break.

Meet: Barton Marina Main Car Park – near the buildings.

Grid ref: SK197181 **DE13 8DZ (nearest post code)**

Directions: Follow A52 west then the A453, joining the A50, then join the A38 and then the B5016 towards Barton and the Marina. Travelling time from West Bridgford: 45 minutes approx.

For those members joining the Brewery tour in the afternoon, a packed lunch can be eaten at the Marina where there are also toilets. After lunch, the route to the National Brewery Centre will be around 15 minutes for 6 miles.

To book, please email Keith at treasurer@rushclifferamblers.org with your mobile number, stating which events you wish to book:

- Brewery tour and walk
- Brewery tour ONLY
- Walk ONLY

Payment details will be emailed with your confirmation.

Booking deadline: Monday 4th July

Enquiries to Keith – 07778 783217

Please note: Numbers are limited, priority will be given to members of Rushcliffe Ramblers over non-members. In the event of a cancellation, any refund will be determined by the cancellation policy of the venue.

A couple of dates for your diary

The Autumn Weekend 2022 to Bridlington is getting closer and if you haven't yet booked your accommodation, now is the time to do so. Over twenty of us have booked somewhere to stay so far and informed Karen so what are you waiting for?

The weekend starts on Friday 30th September and we come home on Sunday 2nd October.

Those attending will need to book and pay for their own accommodation, but evening meals for the group will be arranged for Friday and Saturday evenings.

There will be a choice of walks led by our own members on all three days.

For further information and details of accommodation please contact autumn@rushclifferamblers.org or talk to Karen.

STOP PRESS

Our 2023 summer walking holiday will be to Austria staying in the pretty village of Neustift in the heart of the Tyrol and the perfect base for walks in the Stubai Mountains. Walks are graded 2 and 5 so will suit a range of abilities.

For more information: <https://www.hfholidays.co.uk/holidays-and-tours/guided-walking-neustift>

Watch out for further details including how and when to book..



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

www.rushclifferamblers.org