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## Hello

**Well, some of us have been busy!**  
**In this edition we include reports of our last social event - an afternoon of croquet, and not one but two holiday reports from Scotland and Leamington Spa.**  
**We also complete Rob's recollection of his eight-year walk, and look forward to our next social event in October and more holidays next year...**

## First, a few bits and bobs

- ⇒ Now is the time to save the date for our **Christmas lunch**. A lovely restaurant has been booked for **Sunday 10th December**. Details of the venue, cost, menu choices and how to book will be forthcoming nearer the time, so get your Christmas jumpers ready.
- ⇒ You may have noticed a slight change to the format of the Walks Programme on our website. This now gives you different ways to view the information, including a calendar view or a map view to see where each walk is located. You can also use filters to highlight specific walks based on e.g. the grade of walk or to see which walks fall on a specific day of the week, and you can easily print your view if you prefer a hard copy.
- ⇒ Unfortunately the marathon walk due to take place on Tuesday 12th September was postponed due to bad weather. A new date is being arranged so we'll keep you posted on progress with this epic walk.





## Out and about....





## Our Latest Social Event

In July, twenty three Rushcliffe Ramblers took up croquet for an afternoon at the Nottingham Croquet Club. We were very well looked after by volunteers of the club (Angela being one of them), and shown how to hold a mallet, how to play, and most importantly, how to scupper opponents' chances of going through hoops.

The rain tried to stop play once or twice, but everyone was having so much fun, even the weather could not spoil things.

After a welcome cup of tea and home-made cakes, the serious part of competing continued.

Well done to the winning couple Morag and Peter who went home with a bottle of prosecco each.

The event was such a success that several attendees suggested we make it an annual event. The success can only be attributed to the Croquet Club volunteers and cake-makers who made the afternoon so enjoyable for us all.

So, watch this space, there may be a similar event arranged next year.....



## Our next Social Event

### **Presenting 'Escape from Kabul'** **A talk by an Afghan interpreter**

(Note this event was rearranged from May this year)

**Date:** Thursday 26th October

**Time:** 1900 - 2100

**Venue:** Poppy and Pint, Pierrepont Road, NG2 5DX in the ground floor dining room

Najeem was an interpreter for the British Army during the years in Afghanistan and was evacuated with his family in August 2021. He has settled in Newark with the aid of a local charity and his talk will be a first-hand account of his experiences.

He's a charming man who's integrating well into British society so please come and hear his stories.

If you would like to join Hazel and Najeem, email Hazel on

[social.hazel@rushclifferamblers.org](mailto:social.hazel@rushclifferamblers.org)

**Ticket price is £4 per person**

Numbers are limited to 40



## Continuing Rob's reflection on his Eight-Year Walk

We pick up where we left it in the last edition of Relay - Rob is about to lead Walk 5...

Early March arrived and the storm clouds of covid were rising on the horizon. Don't panic said the government, so I held my nerve. I was just concerned about my route. It was fair weather on the walk day, with even an appearance by the sun. A lively crowd disembarked from the bus, all keen on a good walk. As an icebreaker, I offered them a choice of routes, either the field or the road. A few people had a good look at the field. One even made a few tentative steps in the mud and had to be rescued from the claggy mud. In the end, no-one chose the field route, so off we went along the road. The walk from then on went to plan (plan B that is). We were challenged by a change of path in the housing development but nothing was to stop us. There was a welcome drink break by the banks of the River Trent and I finally relaxed as reaching our destination in Colwick was in the bag.

The last of my six walks was booked for the end of March from Colwick to Trent Bridge (five miles). I nervously followed the news, as the covid bug started spreading rapidly and the case rates were rising. 'Just let me finish, please' I kept saying to myself. The news got worse by the day and then a bombshell scuppered my plans, 'No Ramblers walks until further notice'. I was so frustrated. After four years, I was so close to finishing, only for this to be snatched away by a microscopic organism.

We all saw out the lockdown as best we could. It was often a lonely time and there was a longing to get out there again, meet our friends and tread those fields. Then Ramblers walks restarted tentatively for small groups in July. I stayed at home because I was now booked to have a major heart operation in the September, so it was essential for me not to catch anything, certainly not covid. Leading any walks myself was now a million miles away.

Following my operation, my recovery was long and slow. There were complications and it was not until July 2021 that I joined a group walk for the first time in a year and a half. Five miles was my limit and hills were a great challenge. Thoughts of finishing my Nottingham Circle project were still far from my mind.

After a lot of five-mile walks and a few stumbles on the way, I finally plucked up the courage to get my Walk 6 into the Ramblers programme. I booked this for February 2023. The reccie went without a hitch, just a minor route alteration where there was work on a new £15M fish pass on the River Trent.

**Walk 6**  
**Colwick Park**



## The Eight-Year Walk cont

On the day, everything went to plan. There was a lot of interest with the fish pass work, then we had a tea break on a group of convenient logs.

The group got fully involved, when we slipped back in time to the 60s as we walked along a disused railway track. There was even an observation session, when the group looked out for signs of railway relics. At the end, a few of us celebrated reaching the finish of the Nottingham Circle with a drink in the Trent Bridge Inn. It was so pleasing to see the happy faces of those satisfied walkers. 'It's All Over Now' as the 60s Rolling Stones number went.



***Walk 6 The End is in Sight***

And then, it was all over. Nottingham had been circumnavigated by Rushcliffe Ramblers. Was this wonderful idea I had back in 2016 worth all the hassle? Well, only the intrepid people who joined me for the different walks can answer that.

If you are interested in doing any of the walks, or just want to know more about them, I have compiled an illustrated description of all six walks with maps, photos, tips and directions. This is available in PDF format. If you would like a copy, just email me at

[robertramblers@gmail.com](mailto:robertramblers@gmail.com)

So ends the long tale of my 'Nottingham Circle' project after eight dramatic years. Now I am on to my next big idea - project 'Flat 5'. These are all walks of about five miles and are all relatively flat, ideal for my current walking capabilities. I have scoured the map for suitable routes in our area. Look out for these walks in our walk programme over the coming months (and years!).

**Rob Turner**



## Angela reports on Rushcliffe Ramblers on tour in Glen Coe

(Preceded by a few days touring Glasgow)

Wasn't it just the perfect holiday - a mix of city and mountains? As with all our holidays, we had such a wonderful time in Scotland, touring and walking with our like-minded Rushcliffe Ramblers friends.

Glasgow was gritty, lots of street art, grand architecture, interesting with myths and legends from the origins of the city, large parks and the ship-building heritage along the Clyde. Did you know Wee Willie Winkie was here too? Perhaps I should add a sense of humour to the list!

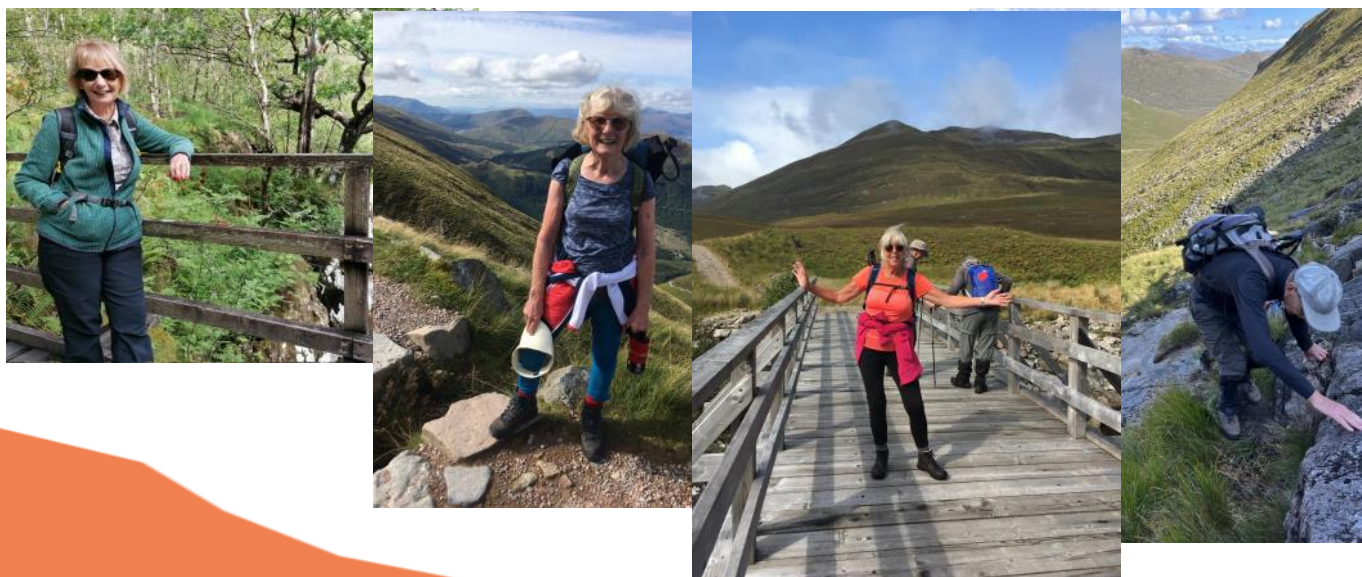


Our city walking tour with Mary as our guide was just perfect. Mary was brilliant and loud so we could all hear her as she took us round the old city and the necropolis. A different route from the Hop-on Hop-off bus expanding our experience of the city. Well done, Mary!



Then it was on to the Highlands and specifically Glen Coe with a meeting up at the Drovers Inn on the way.

Glen Coe was all we expected with stunning scenery, especially the views from up high, lots of hills and mountains to climb, comfortable rooms at Alltshellach, good food too and friendly staff and guests all of which helped to make this a most memorable holiday. The weather also played its part with wall-to-wall sunshine on most days giving such long-reaching views from high up in the mountains. Everyone was so amazed that the Highlands had almost continual blue skies and sunshine and no rain for each day we were there. We were so lucky.





## Rushcliffe Ramblers on tour in Glen Coe cont

13 Rushcliffe members joined other HF Holidays guests at our Highlands retreat. The walks included the ascent of Ben Nevis at 4,500 feet, the highlight of the week for some. Other walks weren't always long but they were tough but still enjoyable, giving a real sense of achievement. The walk leaders were very good, very fit and caring. Well done Joy, Gareth, Tony and Paul, all volunteers working with HF. The social side was hectic too with swimming in the loch (I didn't hear of any RR members joining in that one), desert island discs, the big HF quiz, a piper and country dancing. The latter being a new concept for our Netherlander friends who had great fun joining in.



Staying in Alltshellach, situated on the shores of Loch Leven, we enjoyed the company of Germans, Netherlanders, Australians, Americans, Northern Irish and we even took two Scots with us to make sure the natives were represented.

The steepness of the ascents and descents may have put some people off joining this holiday but you did miss a treat. Those who couldn't manage them found some enjoyable low-level self-guided walks thus enabling them to absorb the atmosphere and the views of some of Scotland's iconic mountains. Everyone was so grateful for the organisation which enabled the holiday to happen and the ensuing wonderful time. I think I can safely say that those who participated enjoyed their time in Glasgow and then all in Glen Coe. We now look forward to holidaying and climbing a few hills together again soon.



"It was a wonderful trip. I'm so glad I went." Lesley





## Karen reports on the Rushcliffe Ramblers weekend to Leamington Spa

“Leamington Spa? Why Leamington Spa?” was the refrain I heard time and time again. Admittedly it is not the first place that springs to mind when looking for somewhere for a walking holiday, but it won the vote in 2022 so that is where we went.

Anyway, Royal Leamington Spa, to give it its correct name, was an absolute delight.



It is an elegant and fashionable town, originally famed for its healing waters, but now better known for its spectacular Regency architecture, excellent shopping, vibrant nightlife and beautifully maintained parks and gardens.

20 members of Rushcliffe Ramblers made their way to Warwickshire for the weekend with a further 12 members and guests joining us for the Sunday walks. (As Leamington Spa is only an hour's drive from West Bridgford, it was decided that the Sunday walks could feature in our main programme.)

Over the course of the weekend, our own members led a series of gentle walks taking in Country Parks, Nature Reserves, Gardens, pretty villages, The River Leam, and The Grand Union Canal, with the highlight being Hatton Locks, a flight of 21 locks known as “The Stairway to Heaven”.



The two restaurants chosen for the evening meals surpassed expectations with excellent food, great service and, fortunately for their other customers, our own private rooms.

As some of you already know, this will be the last Autumn Weekend that I organise, but fortunately Louise has agreed to step in, so on Saturday evening she took charge of the voting for 2024, with the winner being...

**Llandudno.**





## 2024 Holiday Update

### Spring Weekend to Alnmouth 22-25 March, 2024

Come and join us in Alnmouth next Spring. There are 2 double/twin rooms still available to book. We'll be staying in the HF Holidays hotel Nether Grange which is situated on the coast with views of the sea. The cost will be around £400 each for three nights' accommodation, breakfasts, evening meals, packed lunches on the Saturday and Sunday and the services of HF walk leaders including transport to the start of the walks and in-house evening entertainment.

For more information and details of the walks go to

<https://www.hfholidays.co.uk/holidays-and-tours/guided-walking-alnmouth-3?format=pdf&vid=1327>

Everyone who has been on our holidays and weekends will tell you that we have such a good time, good walking - sometimes a bit challenging but satisfying, good food, clean and comfortable rooms and good company. If past experience is anything to go by, everyone should have a wonderful time in Northumberland. We will have sole occupancy of the house provided the numbers don't drop.

To make a booking please email [holidays@rushclifferamblers.org](mailto:holidays@rushclifferamblers.org)

### ISLES OF SCILLY, 25 June 2024 for 6 nights

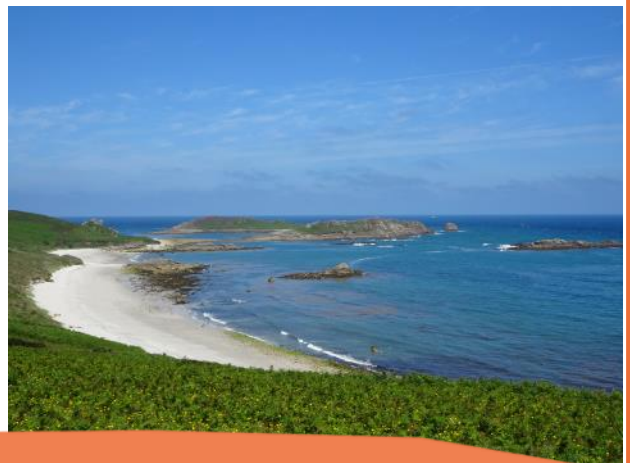
Rushcliffe Ramblers has a booking with HF Holidays for the Scilly Isles next year. There are still rooms available to book including singles if you would like to join the group. We will have the services of HF walk leaders who will take us to a different island each day and guide us round those islands pointing out things of interest. Most of the walks are fairly easy and not too long. The longest at 10 miles is around St Mary's, the largest island and where we'll be staying. The cost will be £1,349 for a room at the Bell Rock Hotel in Hugh Town on St Mary's and includes breakfast and evening meals. Take a look at the hotel here: <https://www.bellrockhotel.co.uk/tariff>  
The cost of either flying or ferry is on top of this price.



**Angela**

Most people who joined the group when we last visited the Scilly Isles in 2015 will tell you it was the best holiday ever.

For further information or to book email [holidays@rushclifferamblers.org](mailto:holidays@rushclifferamblers.org)





## News from your Committee

- ⇒ Central Office have reminded groups that any images, including photographs, videos and graphics, used in our publicity must have permission and comply with copyright laws. We do take this into consideration when we select images for our website, newsletter, Facebook and Flickr site, and ensure that we have the photographer's permission to publish. There are a couple of other implications for us:
- \* Now that Walk Leaders have started to add photographs to Walk Manager to illustrate their walk, ideally these need to be taken by the Walk Leaders themselves. Do not use images from Google or anywhere else on the internet without permission.
  - \* A reminder that anyone taking photographs of our fellow ramblers needs to ensure that they have asked their permission first.
- ⇒ Our **AGM this year** will be on Sunday 19th November at 1.30pm at Kinoulton Village Hall, preceded as usual by a short walk, which this year will be led by Karen (details are on our website if you would like to book).
- ⇒ We have a vacancy on the committee for the Spring and Summer Holiday Organiser. Please talk to Angela if you are interested.  
We need to appoint an independent Examiner to inspect the accounts at the end of the financial year. If you have or know someone who has a background in accounting, please speak with Keith.  
We would also like to hear from anyone who would like to join the committee.
- ⇒ Rushcliffe Ramblers will also be hosting the **Notts Area AGM** on 4th February 2024 at East Leake Village Hall. Mike has formed a small sub-committee to help organise this with Area. The day will include a number of walks of varying lengths in the morning that will be led by our group.



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

[www.rushclifferamblers.org](http://www.rushclifferamblers.org)