

RAMBLERS RUSHCLIFFE GROUP AGM

SECRETARY'S REPORT

1 OCTOBER 2017 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

1. Committee

The following were elected at the Annual General Meeting held on 19 November 2017 to serve on the Committee for the following year.

Position	Committee Member
Chairman	Alan Wilson
Secretary	Mike Stock
Treasurer	Keith Coxon
Footpath Secretary	Martin Smith
Rambles Programme	Lorraine Donovan
Joint Social Secretaries	Morag Hunter and Hazel Hilton
Membership Secretary	Rob Turner
Publicity	Alan Shiret
Weekends Away/Holiday Coordinator	Angela Dobie
Delegate to Area Council	To be filled
Committee Member	Chris Sweetman

The Committee met 4 times during the year with an average attendance of 89%.

Although the post of delegate to the Area Council was not filled, Alan Wilson attended area meetings on behalf of the Group. Karen Lewis attended the July and October meetings in her role as the Autumn Weekends Away Coordinator.

As usual, I think that the Committee has provided an effective service to the membership in offering a varied programme of walks, social events, managing the finances and dealing with footpath and other issues.

Following their presentation at last year's Annual General Meeting, Rachel Tindsley and Charlie King presented their proposals for the increase the supply of walks and walk leaders to the January committee meeting. After a long debate the principles of the scheme were agreed. Unfortunately, the response to the initiative was disappointing. It was agreed at the April committee meeting that the project is put on hold for the time being and possibly resurrected at a future date. Rachel and Charlie were thanked for the hard work they had put into the project.

I have updated the Walks Library, the details of which can be viewed on our website and I am in the process of revising our Constitution although I do not anticipate any major changes.

2. Membership

Rob has had busy year dealing with the introduction of the Data Protection Act and the membership dashboard in addition to his normal duties

The membership numbers are slightly down this year.. The register of walkers has been continued for this year from which Rob derives a lot the data below. A complete list of the walks is shown in Appendix No 1 of this report.

Table 1 Membership as 1st October 2018 (Central Office figures)

Year		2018	2017	Difference
Membership		1 st Oct	1 Oct	
Annual	Individual	127	128	-1
Annual	Joint	119	134	-15
Annual Concession	Individual	36	31	+5
Annual Concession	Joint	17	14	+3
Life	Individual	1	1	0
Life Concession	Individual	2	2	0
Life Concession	Joint	9	9	0
TOTAL		311	319	-8

Table 2 Total participation in walks from 1 January 2017 to 14th October 2018

	Weekend	Mid-week	Short	Kiddies	Holidays	Total
Rushcliffe	852	315	350	0	354	1871
Other Groups	64	21	22	0	14	121
Non members	27	28	93	0	14	162
Total	943	364	465	0	382	2154
Number of walks	56	17	24	0	26	123
Average per walk	15.7	18.5	14.6	0	13.6	15.4
Individuals (RR)	97	105	86	0	57	160

Table 3 Individuals participating in all our activities

Activity	Walks	Holidays	Socials	Total
Rushcliffe	160	57	113	165
Other Groups	73	2	2	73
Non members	105	3	5	109
Total	338	62	120	347

165 Rushcliffe members out of the current 311 group membership have participated in one or more of our walks or activities (53.0%).

a. GDPR Act

Our Chairman asked Rob if he would mastermind the introduction of the General Data Protection Act (GDPR) on behalf of the Group. In his report to the October committee meeting, he said that the dust has now settled and Central Office has given its instructions. The email preference is set up at national level to cover emails both nationally and locally. Not everyone in the Group has responded to the recent Ramblers' request to update their email preferences, which leaves a disparity between nationally held preferences and our local needs and requirements. Therefore, if the Group follows national instructions, a considerable number of our members will not receive communications from the group. As our local emails to members are not marketing messages as covered by the Act but information covering the group's activities it was agreed at the October 2018 committee meeting that Rob would spend time to determine local email preferences of members and continue with our sensible approach to emailing.

b. Membership Dashboard

Ramblers are going online for membership management. Currently membership secretaries receive files on a monthly basis for the complete membership and weekly for new and reinstated via email. They want to introduce an online dashboard, which includes full list of group members, addresses, contact details and GDPR preferences.

c. Future for Walk Attendance Logging

Ramblers have developed an App so that walk leaders can scan the barcodes on the membership cards into the smart phone. The resulting data can be loaded directly to an on-line walk dashboard. This would be a gradual introduction as apart from anything else not everybody has a smart phone.

3. Walks

Once again Lorraine has done a magnificent job in producing an informative and illustrated walks programme, gently cajoling members to lead walks. The programme presentation is a great advertisement for the group.

None of the walks would be possible without the enthusiasm of the walk leaders in providing interesting and varied walks.

Jeremy Pratt has run the short walks programme and health walks with his customary enthusiasm ably assisted by Martin Smith and a group of willing assistants.

Chris Sweetman organised and supervised three well-attended, successful navigation courses during the year at East Leake. He is planning to run more advanced courses during 2018/19.

4. Walking Holidays

Our holidays are becoming more adventurous as time goes on. This year was no exception and thanks are due to the organisers by Angela (Selworthy and Slovenia), Karen (Beverley) and Hazel Lee (London Walking Tour).

a. Selworthy Devon 6 – 9 April 2018

48 members make their way to south west for a memorable weekend. There were 9 walks over the weekend of varying difficulty. The long walk on the Saturday was particularly memorable for having to cross a number of fast overflowing streams. Your chairman and secretary managed to get a soaking by taking a tumble in the streams. After the evening meal, attendees enjoyed or possibly endured a number of quizzes. Many thanks to Angela for her superb organisation and the walk leaders.

b. Lake Bled, Slovenia 16 – 23 June 2018

28 attendees flew from Stanstead for a truly memorable holiday in Slovenia. One or two members had flown out earlier but we all managed to meet up for the short coach trip to the hotel at beautiful and welcoming Lake Bled. For this holiday, we used HF walk leaders who devised a series of walks of varying difficulty. In every case the scenery was absolutely stunning. On the rest day, a number of us went to Ljubljana to see the sights like the Three Bridges and the castle, which houses a museum showing a timeline of the nation's rather tortured history. On our last night Pam reviewed the week in verse which was well received particularly by our guides.

c. London Walking Tour 19 July 2018

The party met up at St Pancras and made our way to Eltham Palace, a combination of historic buildings and a modern house in the art-deco style. We had lunch in the palace grounds before touring the building and gardens. The group then made its way to Blackheath, stopping at a café-bar for refreshment before walking over Greenwich Park to Greenwich where we paused to admire the Cutty Sark before taking the docklands light railway and underground to King's Cross for a meal. Then it was a short walk to St Pancras for the journey to Nottingham. Many thanks to Hazel for her organisation and ably dealing with two members getting detached from the group at St Pancras and a mistake by the restaurant over the booking.

d. Beverley Autumn Weekend Away

26 members made their way to Beverley where they were joined by four members of the Hull and Holderness Group. Steve M and Val and Steve L and Elaine led all the walks. Attendees had the choice of three walks on Saturday and two on Sunday. In addition there was an early evening ghost walk led by Paul Scholfield, a local guide who related tales of Beverley's ghostly and grisly past. Many thanks to Karen for organising another superb weekend.

5. Social Events

Once again, our dynamic duo Morag and Hazel devised and organised an interesting and varied programme of events, which were well attended by members.

a. Christmas Lunch 10 December 2017

76 members and guests attended the lunch The Country Cottage, Ruddington. As usual a pre-lunch walk was well attended despite the biting cold weather and succeeded to working up one's appetite. Generally, the meal and service was good and we had the advantage of taking over the restaurant. After lunch, Pam reviewed the Rushcliffe year in verse to everyone's amusement.

b. Quiz Evening at the Wolds Pub 16 February 2018

33 brave members attended the evening to test their general knowledge and memory in a fiendish quiz. Morag and Hazel were our ruthless inquisitors insisting that their decisions were final and not open to question no matter how reasonable. Despite the relentless pressure, it was an entertaining evening. We all departed thinking how little we knew or preferably how much we had forgotten but was still lodged in the deep recesses of our by now addled brains.

c. Holocaust Centre and Museum Tour 20 May 2018

A morning walk preceded this visit to the Centre, which was attended by 25 members. After lunch in the gardens, Dave Halliwell gave a talk on the background to the holocaust after which we toured the exhibition. The highlight of the afternoon was a talk given by a holocaust survivor recounting her experiences. It was very moving and oddly so matter-of-fact. It was an extremely interesting if rather sombre afternoon.

d. 30th Anniversary Barn Dance 29 September 2018

This was a novel way to celebrate the group's 30th anniversary. 51 keen and not so keen participants attended the dance held at the Edwalton Golf Club. The caller did an excellent job encouraging or in some cases cajoling people to take the floor. The buffet was excellent and the highlight of the evening was a special anniversary cake, the remnants of which were devoured by some greedy but grateful walkers on the Sunday walk.

6. Website

Alan Shiret has done an excellent job of keeping our website up to date.

Mike Stock

Secretary

18 November 2018