



RUGBY RAMBLERS NEWSLETTER

December 2025



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Dear Members,

Writing can be a monotonous business, though it does bring the occasional reward of a good sentence - quote. Reward can also come in the form of dispensing good news, such as the restoration of our Annual Mystery Walk as a Festival Ramble followed by gastronomic delights. Or how about the 37.5% of our walk leaders who have already achieved legendary status through meeting the requirements to upgrade their record, roles not only preserved but enhanced! I'm reminded here of my dear old dad's wonderful self-help books and that much of what we do comes down to 'You Can if you Think you Can' ... one of the book titles. Positivity, enthusiasm ... just Do It ! And what enthusiasm members brought to the recent AGM, numbers up again, encouraged by our own excellent speaker, Philippa, the top-of-the-range technical support of Mayuresh, and of course Gillendy's buffet ... cleaned up.

A flip-side of reward is Punishment, and the pitfalls from grace that surely follow having 'Greatness thrust upon you' - Shakespeare's Twelfth Night & Barry Matthews; the acknowledgement of the Walk Calendar in distress due to my excess trawling through 3 years of walk leadership, of boots forgotten for a strenuous Cotswold walk. We get found out.

Most content below can be ascribed to those who just did it. Let the entries below speak for themselves. And do enjoy the Area Annual Report now published, many writers attempting a good sentence. Many thanks to all who have contributed to enable our walks, trips and events to happen.

Seasonal greetings to all ... and happy walking in 2026.

David Shaw - Chairperson



FIVE VALLEYS WALK

A sponsored walk in aid of Meningitis, 28th September

For tough participants only, 21.3 miles, five BIG hills - Carol Wood; Mary Pinchen; Becky Morris; Ann Gillon; Rachel Davies and Vale Hargie, all completing Rugby Ramblers' toughest annual challenge.

An 8.00a.m. start saw 1600 starters bolt briskly out of starting blocks, mile after mile testing sinews and stamina to the limits until 6.30 pm called a halt to proceedings, the signal for the awards ceremony - certificate, a medal, and a free drink claimed by finishers.

Rewards: beautiful photographs and a lot of sponsor money.

Vale would like to thank all who contributed to the £300 collected towards this year's target of £55 000.

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Area's 90th anniversary celebration

Graham and Sandra Bevan attended the Ramblers picnic and walks event in Warwick. Thank you to both for ensuring Rugby Group was represented.

Festive Ramble 30th December

Leaders Mary and Carol - The Malt Shovel, Bubbenhall, from 9:30, 5.5 mile walk followed by gastronomic delights; details to follow.

Coach Trip Shropshire Hills - August

Four walks, with different levels, were offered to the members on Shropshire Hills Coach Trip. An enjoyable day to everyone!

HARROGATE WEEKEND

During the first week of September, 37 Rugby Ramblers headed to Harrogate's historic Crown Hotel with modern amenities and ornate dining. Centrally placed, the location was well placed for extra exploring when not walking with the group. After lunch on Friday, following most people's journeys up to Yorkshire, we met in Wetherby's Old Station Car Park for a leg stretching 5 miles along the River Wharfe, a pretty walk through water meadows and the village of Linton. This made a great start to our walking weekend. On Saturday and Sunday we offered 3 walks on each day of varying lengths and difficulties. At some point during the weekend all 3 groups visited Brimham Rocks, a site of Special Scientific Interest with giant rock formations, created by an immense river 100 million years before the first dinosaurs.



The rocks, sculpted by 320 million years of movement of entire continents as well as hundreds of thousands of years of ice, rain and wind, have taken on weird and wonderful shapes.

We were all given time to explore the rocks and to use the café and facilities.

The walks also offered opportunities to explore the Nidderdale Valley, the Knaresborough Round, Barden Tower, Bolton Abbey ruins and 3 reservoirs on the Six Dales Way. The weather was generally kind, the walking excellent, with stunning views and opportunities to just take in the experience.

Monday morning before departing we met up at Harewood Village for 5 gentle miles around Harewood Park, a super walk with far reaching views, including the house and some lovely deer in the park, finishing with a café stop, perfect for lunch before heading back to the Midlands. All in all a great weekend of walking in a beautiful setting. Special thanks go to the walk leaders David Gelsthorpe-Hill, Richard & Kay Pinks, Ron Smith and David & Ratre Shaw for all their hard work planning, recce of routes and ensuring the walks were safe, varied and full of interest. Watch out for details of next years weekend 4-7th of September 2026 where we are hopefully heading to the coast!

Philippa Thompson



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Area AGM 28th February - Fentham Hall

Beautiful village of Hampton-in-Arden, sure to be an excellent occasion, worth bookmarking.

Selworthy weekend

Roland's walk leadership team will also be setting off to Somerset to recce adventures for our Selworthy Weekend.

Soup Puds Pics

Hope to confirm a date for this popular social event. Send photos of walks, coach trips, weekends from March 2025 onwards, all clearly labelled, asap to Mayuresh Shah - shahmayuresh@hotmail.co.uk - The show can only reflect what Mayu is given.

COMMITTEE ROLES

Chairperson: David Shaw

Treasurer: Faith Boyers

Membership Secretary: Astrid Rembold

Minutes Secretary: Gitaben Bhatt

Website: Roland Clarke

Footpath Secretary: Nick Jakeman

Coach/Events Secretary: David Gelsthorpe-Hill

Liaison Officer: John Gabriel

Member without portfolio (yet): Lyn Stubbins

Member without portfolio (yet): David Humphrey

For any member with initiative, the addition of a Social Secretary, a Publicity Officer and a Walk Manager would return Rugby Group to something like its pre-Covid status.

OBITUARY

It is inevitable we lose members from time to time, sadly since our last publication:

Bob Hargie, So many Rugby Ramblers will have wonderful memories of Bob on rambles and weekends away. Bob led many B walks. You always knew where he was on a walk. You could hear him talking! He always had plenty to say, was so knowledgeable and fun to be with.

Celia Chadburn She joined Rugby Ramblers in 2005. She met Rodney whilst walking with the ramblers and their relationship developed into a happy partnership, both led a number of enjoyable walks.