

SOAR FEET

Newsletter of the Loughborough
and District Ramblers

Spring Update, March 2024

Welcome to this "Spring Update" of our newsletter. As a new editor finding her feet – dry, for once! – I hope this first slim offering captures how active the group has already been in 2024. It also looks ahead to our April daytrip to the Malverns, now coming up very soon and open to all who wish to join us – details on page 3. Many thanks to all contributors to this issue, and my personal thanks to Ted Wells and Sue Mears for their support in easing me into this role. *Tess Kay*

Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to the latest edition of Soar Feet. The last edition was some time ago and Ted Wells stepped down as editor after that. Many thanks to Ted for all his hard work over the years. We have been fortunate that Tess Kay has volunteered to take on the role as editor – please give her your full support.

At the AGM in December three long standing Committee Members - Lynne Atkinson, Margaret Eade and Stuart Tyler - stood down. Thanks to all of them for their contributions.

The new Committee (listed below) met in December. Unfortunately we are still without a secretary, a membership secretary and a Footpaths Officer. Anyone who can spare the time to help with any (or all) of these roles would be very welcome to join the Committee. Please contact any Committee Member if you would like to find out what is involved.

Over the last for months we have had a pretty full programme of both mid-week and Saturday walks, plus a social programme that has included a Christmas lunch and a skittles evening. As we look forward to Spring our next social event is the coach excursion to Malvern on Saturday April 13th. There will be two walks – a 10 mile walk from Eastnor to Malvern, and a shorter 6 mile from British Camp to Malvern. The scenery should be spectacular and we are looking forward to a good day out.

Loughborough and District Ramblers Committee, 2023-24

At the AGM at the end of 2023, Lynne Atkinson, Stuart Tyler and Margaret Eade stepped down from the committee: we are indebted to them for all their commitment, hard work and support over many years. Their contributions will be greatly missed. Thank you also to Ted Wells for doing such a wonderful job editing Soar Feet for us for so long. Thank you to all of you.

Membership of the 2023-24 Committee is:

Chair	Richard Jack
Secretary	<i>Position unfilled</i>
Membership Secretary	<i>Position unfilled</i>
Treasurer	Chris Rimbault
Walks Prog. Coordinator	Dave Twigg
Area Rep	John Samson
Social Secretary	Sue Mears
Footpath Officer	<i>Position unfilled</i>
Committee member	Liz Jones



Our Chair, Richard Jack, has walked with Loughborough Ramblers since 2019 since moving to Quorn and has been a Ramblers member for over 10 years. Soon after joining the Loughborough

Group he volunteered to lead some walks and now leads a few walks each year. He previously walked with the Orleton Ramblers in Herefordshire and the Happy Wanderers in Paphos, Cyprus. He usually does mid-week walks plus the occasional (shorter) weekend walk.



Chris Rimbault, our Treasurer, has been a member of Ramblers since August 2018. Chris walks regularly with the group on Wednesdays and Saturdays and also leads walks. He is

now in his fourth year as Treasurer.



Our *Social Secretary Sue Mears* joined the Ramblers when she retired and has been a member of the group for 11 years. She usually walks on a Wednesday and Saturday and leads walks regularly. Sue has been the

Social Secretary for many years now, organising the weekend holidays away and social events that we put on each year. The holidays have been with HF and we have been to a number of houses, during the last three years we have been to the Whitby, the Lake District and Church Stretton. Sue enjoys walking, talking and meeting new ramblers, and loves going on walking holidays and walking along the coastal paths of Cornwall.



Our *Area Rep is John Samson* who has been a member of the group since 1988 and was on the group's second ever walk. He has led over 100 walks for the group, typically in the Peak District,

and was Chair from 1997 to 2012. He is now also Communications Officer on the Leicestershire and Rutland Area Committee. Happiest when hiking in the mountains and recently retired from the University, he is busy burning through his retirement lump sum indulging this passion.



The group's *Walks Programme Coordinator Dave Twigg* joined the Ramblers in 2015 and has been on the Committee since 2016. Dave walks twice each week and enjoys a wide range of walking, especially in the Peak District, on coastal walks and in the mountains. He has created a number of walks to allow the group to enjoy major routes, including series of circular walks along the Derwent Valley Heritage Way in 2019 and the Leicestershire Round in 2021-22.



A special welcome to our new *Committee member, Liz Jones* - thank you for joining us, we look forward to working with you! Liz has been walking with our group for just over two years, on Wednesday mornings and sometimes Saturdays. She has enjoyed joining the

group's day trips to the Cotswolds and the Chilterns and the weekend trip to Church Stretton. Liz enjoys walking holidays in many parts of the country and always love going to the Peak District.

Committee Vacancies

The roles of Secretary, Membership Secretary and Footpaths Officer need to be filled. Please

contact one of the committee if you would be willing to serve!

Group Activities

The year has started with a busy programme of walks including a number of longer (10-12 mile) weekend walks and a shorter midweek walk (6-7 miles) most Wednesdays, often with a lunch option at the end. We are however still relying on a core of regular walk leaders and more are always needed, whether to lead pre-planned previous routes or to offer new ones. If you would like to be put on the list to lead a pre-planned walk, or if you have a walk that you would like to propose, please contact a member of the committee. Your offer will be most warmly welcomed! – and help will of course be available if you are new to planning or leading walks. In the meantime, do enjoy the walks photo-calendar at the end of this newsletter. Many thanks to all our leaders for the many walks we have already enjoyed in 2024.

Social Calendar

The group's walking activities have been accompanied by a busy social programme, organised by the group's social secretary Sue. These get-togethers have been especially enjoyed and appreciated in the wintry weeks when some walks have inevitably been cancelled or postponed by weather. In November we triumphed at the annual Leicestershire quiz competing against other walking groups in the county; in December we gathered for an excellent Christmas lunch following our festive walk in the Swithland area; and in February members of the group enjoyed a skittles evening and meal in Barrow upon Soar.



Our winning quiz team of Dave Rolls, Pam Bursnall, John Samson and Chris Rimbault

We now look forward to our imminent day trip to the Malvern - details overleaf - on Saturday 13th April. All are welcome to join us as we seek to recapture the blue skies and sunshine that Sue and Chris magicked up for their recent recce!

Loughborough and District Ramblers
Malvern Hills Coach Trip ∞ Saturday 13th April 2024

This year our one-day Spring coach trip will be going to the Malvern area and walking the Malvern Ridgeline. There will be a choice of two walks, a long one of about 10 miles and a shorter version of 6 miles. The coach will drop off walkers at the start of their chosen walk and meet them where they finish in Great Malvern.

We aim to set off from Tesco car park (Park Road, Loughborough) at 8am and return about 8pm. There will be time for a short look around Great Malvern and refreshments at one of the cafes or pubs in the town at the end of the walk.

The cost of the day is £25 and we welcome walkers from all local groups. **If you are interested in joining us, then please contact Sue on 07545 395817.** Please include your email as well as contact mobile number.

We look forward to meeting you on our walking day out. In the meantime, enjoy this preview from the route recce that Sue Mears and Chris Rimbault recently undertook on our behalf.



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TOGETHER

A moment to pause. Breathing in clear air. Sharing interests and conversations as you ponder the hills ahead. We have your passion for exploring worldwide and in the UK.

Choose any of our holidays and we'll contribute funds through **The Walking Partnership** to your group. Just tell us their name when you book.

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Ramblers Walking Holidays

Loughborough and District Ramblers – springing into 2024

Christmas walk and festive Griffin lunch,
Wednesday 13th December 2023



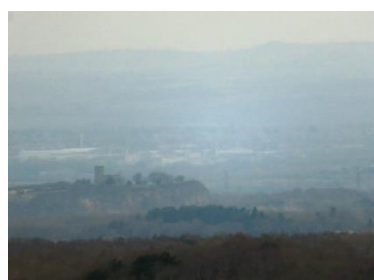
Bradgate Wednesday 10th January 2024



Fosse Park to Leicester, Saturday 13th January 2024



Heights of Charnwood Saturday 20th January 2024



Passing Prestwold Wednesday 24th January 2024



Shepshed to Garendon Park, Wednesday 31st January 2024



Skittles evening, Friday 2 February 2024



Snowdrops at Staunton Wednesday 28 February 2024



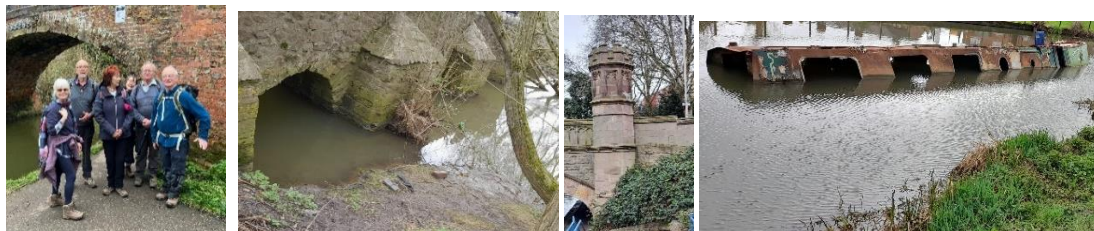
Swithland Reservoir Wednesday 6th March 2024



Castle Donington Circular, Wednesday 13th March 2024



Walk from Fosse Park, Wednesday 20th March 2024



Walk from Melbourne Saturday 23rd March 2024



Quick photo quiz!

How quickly can you identify these - *without* scrolling through the group WhatsApp thread!!



1. Where? And can you match any of those backpacks to an owner?



5. A memorable farmyard! Where and when?



2. The road not travelled! But where, when, and who was checking it out for us?



6. Beautiful waxwings – spotted on which walk? Then also reported in Loughborough – which road?



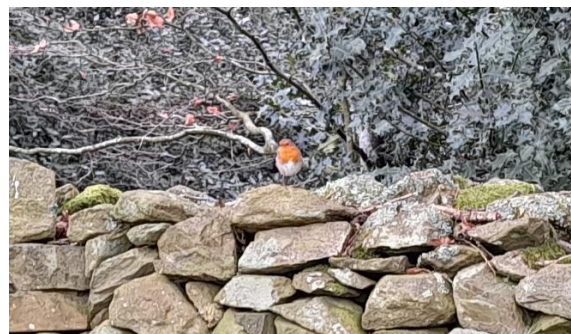
3. What is she doing - and where is she doing it?



7. Which of our (many!) petite ramblers is this?



4. Who was leading the walk when each of these were seen? And where?



8. A beautiful photo of a wintry robin – taken by whom, and where?

To find out more about Loughborough and District Ramblers, visit our website

<http://www.loughboroughramblers.org.uk>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Loughborough Ramblers website. The header features the group's logo and a navigation menu with links to Home, Walks, Social Events, Newsletter, Photos, Leader Resources, and Committee & Minutes. The main content area is titled 'Welcome' and includes a 'Do you enjoy the outdoors and walking?' section. It describes the group as a friendly community of walkers and lists upcoming walks, including a mid-week walk on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, and a weekend walk on Saturday or Sunday. There are also sections for 'Social events' and 'Non-members and visitors'. The right sidebar contains 'Latest News' (Soar Feet), 'Our next walks' (listing dates and distances), and 'Our next events' (a day trip to the Malvern). A 'Want to join the Ramblers?' section lists benefits of membership, such as being part of a large charity, access to a community of over 110,000 members, and a 10% discount on purchases at Colwyn Outdoor. The footer includes logos for 'hfholidays' and 'Ramblers Walking Holidays', the date 'Monday, April 01, 2024', and contact information for the Ramblers Charity.

Your Soar Feet

I hope that you find something of interest in this newsletter. It would be great to receive suggestions of what you might like to see included – and offers to actually contribute will be enthusiastically received! Please drop me a line at tesskay62@outlook.com with your ideas and offers! 😊