



# SOAR FEET

## Newsletter of the Loughborough and District Ramblers

Summer News, October 2024

### Editor's greeting

Welcome to the late (very late – sorry!) summer edition of our newsletter. At times it looked as if there might be nothing to report but bad-weather cancellations but in reality we seem to have been remarkably successful in finding walkable days! Your photos show we have made the most of them – not least on the Malvern day trip, which gave a great start to our summer season. Enjoy reliving the Malvern highlights on p. 4 and those of our wider programme of walks from p. 8.

Thank you for all your ideas and contributions for this edition. Please do check our website and Facebook page for updated information on walks and group activities – there are links to both at the foot of each newsletter page. Please also note the warm invitation on page 5 to provide content for a festive Christmas-New Year edition - and the plea on page 6 for honest feedback on my “5-clicks” article! *Tess Kay, Editor*

### Chair's Introduction

Welcome to the latest edition of Soar Feet. Thank you to everyone for contributing.

We have had a busy time since the last edition published at Easter. Our day out to Malvern in April was very well attended and blessed with good weather in contrast to the blizzard on our recce. Sue Mears did an excellent job organising the trip – many thanks from us all. Our other social event was an evening walk in June from Rothley followed by a fish and chip supper. Again we were blessed with good weather – thanks to Christine and Ted Wells for organising the evening.

Since walking started again after lockdown we have generally enjoyed a good programme of weekly walks, including longer routes on several Saturdays. This summer we have however sometimes struggled to find enough members

willing to lead walks and at times there have been a few blank spaces in the programme. We are very grateful to members of the group who have stepped in to fill these gaps, often at short notice. We are however keen to get our walk programme on to a more stable basis, so that we can publish a fuller schedule of walks in advance which helps all of us plan our diaries. Please therefore think about putting a walk into the programme. Unless members come forward to lead walks - we will have no walks! Please contact Dave Twigg with suggestions.

Thank you all for your continuing participation and support. *Richard Jack, Chair*

### Committee Matters

The 2023-24 committee membership\* is:

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

*\*A number of Committee members will step down at the AGM; information will be provided in the papers that you will receive for the AGM.*

### Committee Vacancies

We have three unfilled roles - Secretary, Membership Secretary and Footpaths Officer. Each requires a limited time commitment – we all prefer to be out walking, so meetings are few and short! Please consider helping the group by trying one of these roles for 2024-25, outlined below. All committee members will happily provide more information.

**Secretary:** This role supports the work of the Committee. It includes making arrangements for Committee meetings, sending out agenda, and recording and distributing minutes. It uses very basic IT skills – email communication, and typing up the papers for the meetings.

**Membership secretary:** This role includes welcoming new members, communicating with existing members, encouraging renewals and maintaining member records. IT use includes recording membership on spreadsheets and accessing membership data online.

**Footpaths Officer:** The Ramblers requires each group to have a Footpaths Officer. The work of the Footpath Officer can include working with local groups on issues affecting footpaths, and informing the Association of any footpath issues that members report.

## Forthcoming events

| Dates for your diary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Friday 1 November: Area Quiz.</b> This year's Area Quiz, organised by the Leicester Group, will take place in The Linford, 66 Main St, Newtown Linford LE6 0AD. Arrive at 1900 for a 1930 start to the quiz. Please let John Samson know if you would like to be on a team: 07740 306497                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Saturday 16 November: Group AGM.</b> The Loughborough and District Ramblers AGM will take place after a walk from Mount St Bernard Abbey, with lunch at St Joseph's Tearoom. Agenda papers will be circulated in advance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas walk and lunch.</b> The Christmas walk will start from Groby pool and take us on a Bradgate and Newton Linford circular, before heading for lunch at the Stanford Arms at Markfield. Details will be published on the website and Facebook page.                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Saturday 25 January 2025: Area AGM.</b> The area AGM takes place in January, organised by the Rutland Group, starting at 10.00; details tbc in December. All members are welcome as individuals, not necessarily representing their group; there were about 50 from around the area at the last one with a small number from Loughborough. As well as the required business, there is usually a talk - the last one had a talk about the country parks of Leicestershire - and a walk. |

## The work of the Area Rep

John Samson

*As a local Ramblers group, we are connected to the wider national and international activities of the Ramblers Association. At Area level, this is through our Area Rep, John Samson. Below John outlines the work involved and provides links to some of the additional resources and sources of information available to us.*

The Loughborough and District Group is one of the eight groups in the Leicestershire and Rutland Area of the Ramblers. I have been representing the Group on the Area Executive Committee for about 18 months. The committee meets a few times a year, largely by Zoom, and allows the Group to pass on observations, and for information about developments to come back to the Group. As of 6 months ago I am also the Communications Officer for the Area, which means more meetings 😞 (about one a month). I also solicit articles and arrange distribution of the Area newsletter Write of Way a few times of year, and run the Area social media feeds

<https://www.facebook.com/leicsrutlandra>

and <https://x.com/AndRutland> (fairly quiet - please follow, like and comment).

This is in addition to the Group's Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/loughbroughramblers> - post material here directly related to group activities, such as advertising walks you will be leading, or local footpath news. I do not run the Area website <https://leicsra.org.uk/>; the current webmaster is stepping down in January, so please let us know if you are interested in this role. *John Samson, Area Rep*





## New access to the Garendon Estate

*John Samson*

The development of the Garendon Estate for housing has been an issue for many years. We will have seen houses replacing the greenery between Dishley and Hathern, but there are wins for walkers as well as for those who need a home to live in.

The agreement stipulates that parts of the previously private Garendon Estate will be opened to public access step by step as the building progresses. Indeed, last summer the first path opened and there are now routes through the estate allowing circular walks from both Loughborough and Shepshed (which our walk programme has already taken advantage of).

The map, posted on the entrance from Ashby Rd, shows the currently open paths; the ones in purple, which I have added by hand following my explorations, also appear to be open.



Most of the follies are not directly accessible, but the paths offer good views of the Temple of Venus (take the farm track from Ashby Rd) and limited views of the Triumphal Arch (when the trees are not in leaf). The Obelisk is more accessible and its renovation is nearly complete; look out for it.

To keep up to date (or join Friends of Garendon Park), see the website <http://www.garendon.freeuk.com> run by county councillor Max Hunt.



*The Temple of Venus*



*The Temple of Venus*



*The Triumphal Arch*



## Loughborough and District Ramblers Day trip to Malvern ∞ April 2024

*Sue Mears*

The day trips that we organise have been popular with members and this was our third. We wanted to do the Ridge walk into Malvern. We planned to do a 10 mile and a six mile walk and arrive in Malvern for an early evening meal. We organised the walk for April when the weather would be warmer and the evenings longer and indeed it was a lovely day out. We had 34 walkers from Loughborough Ramblers and friends from other groups.



The long walk of ten miles set off from Eastnor following the Worcestershire Way and Three Choir's Way and climbing Herefordshire Beacon. Our shorter route joined the walk at the British Camp car park. All the walkers walked the Ridgeway towards Upper Wyche and then on to Worcestershire Beacon and then down into Malvern.





We had been so lucky with the weather; it was a glorious sunny Spring Day!

This was in sharp contrast to the two attempts to recce the walk in March, where we had to abandon the first attempt by Richard, Gill, Chris, and myself due to waterlogged, flooded ground and then snow! it just kept coming down so poor visibility and treacherous slippery conditions, forced us to abandon the walk and take refuge in the pub!



*Malvern recce #1: Going....going....gone!*

Another attempt in better weather was successfully attempted a few weeks later – Relief!!



Thanks to the leaders all the walkers who came on the walk and were so appreciative, it was a grand day out.

*Sue, Social Secretary*



***Call for Christmas Newsletter contributions***

***Not all those who wander are lost\*: adventures further afield***

Our lively WhatsApp groups allow members to share occasional photos of their walks outside our own rambles. These give glimpses of some spectacular landscapes in more distant locations – and also reassure us that somewhere the sun really has been shining! I had intended to include a feature on these adventures in this edition of the newsletter, but as the document has become rather large, I am holding it over to our end-of-year edition. I may approach you for some details – thank you in advance!

*[\*That “sounds-familiar” phrase? It’s Tolkien: “All that is gold does not glitter, Not all those who wander are lost; The old that is strong does not wither, Deep roots are not reached by the frost....”]*

## Group Walk Activities

The year has continued with a varied programme of walks. In addition to the Group's trip to Malvern, there have been a number of longer (10-12 mile) weekend walks, both local to the Loughborough area and further afield. Our shorter midweek walks (6-7 miles) have continued, usually on Wednesday mornings, often with a lunch option at the end. A summer evening excursion in June gave the opportunity for an excellent fish supper.

One of the bonuses of our varied walk programme is the extensive array of photographs captured and shared by members. As editor my initial apprehension ("oh no there are hundreds!") quickly evaporates and gives way to pure enjoyment ("these are wonderful!"). The walks photo-calendar at the end of this newsletter offers only a small sample: do also enjoy those displayed on the Group's Facebook page. This link should take you directly to them [Loughborough Ramblers | Facebook](#), but if it does not, you can find them easily under the "media" tab. Enjoy immersing yourself in them as much as I have!

## Leading pre-planned walks: resources for walk leaders available on our website

Our walks programme is much enjoyed but as noted elsewhere, we need to take steps to avoid becoming over-reliant on a core of regular walk leaders. We therefore hope to increase the number of group members who feel happy to lead walks.

Walk leaders often offer new routes which they feel the group will enjoy but there is absolutely no requirement to create a new walk from scratch. You may prefer to use one of the group's pre-planned routes which has been walked previously, especially if you are new to leading. Many of the routes we have walked and enjoyed previously are listed on the group's website, which is easily accessible here: [Plots of previous walks \(loughboroughramblers.org.uk\)](#) This can be an excellent starting point for identifying a walk you might like to try leading.

If you are new to walk leading but willing to try it, be assured that there is an enormous amount of friendly encouragement, support, information and assistance available to you within the group. Grateful thanks will also flow your way!

## Using our pre-planned walks: accessing routes on our website

Tess Kay

I recently used the link [Plots of previous walks \(loughboroughramblers.org.uk\)](#) to explore the walk routes held on our own website. I found the information excellent and extremely easy to use. Excited by my success, I am therefore tentatively offering this "beginners guide" – that is, a guide by a beginner! – in case it is useful for anyone else who wants to look at the walk details.

Firstly, the link above is great: it gives you immediate access to more than 80 different walks. There is a map of each of the routes, which vary in length from about 7km to 27 km (5-17 miles). Many of the walks are local to the Loughborough area while others are more distant, e.g. the Peak District. There are several examples of the type of walk the group usually does on a Wednesday (around 6 miles), and several longer, "Saturday"-type walks (10 miles+).

Secondly, it is extremely easy to use the information selectively. On this occasion I was particularly interested in shorter walks that might suit new walk leaders. To do this, I found it useful to slightly re-arrange the list of walks. This only took me five "clicks", so it was very, very easy! There really were absolutely minimal IT skills involved! My "very simple but I think it works" 5-click approach is explained on the next page.

Thirdly, I need to mention the greater riches in our walks database. Although I was initially only looking for information on shorter walks that might suit new leaders, I soon found myself looking at many more. As well as longer single walks, there are some fascinating linked sequences, such as the Derwent Valley 11 and the Limestone Way 3 (both from Dave Twigg). The walk names alone can be enough to transport you to the trails, forests and footpaths! It is a fabulous resource and a real pleasure to browse through.

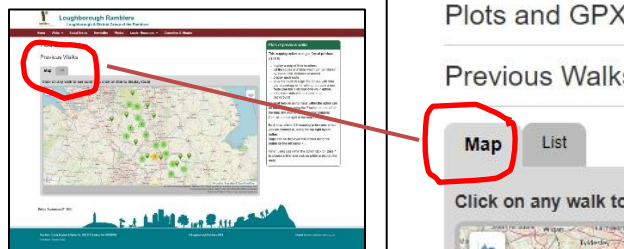
Finally, I'd really appreciate any feedback on my novice "5-clicks" guide to accessing the walks information. It is just so hard to judge your own efforts at explaining something like this! The approach on the next page worked for me and it would be great if it makes sense to others - but if it doesn't, please do let me know. I am sure we can collectively improve it 😊! Drop me an email at [tesskay62@outlook.com](mailto:tesskay62@outlook.com)

## LOUGHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT WALK ROUTES IN FIVE CLICKS!

### A beginner's guide to accessing our website resources....

**CLICK 1:** Start by clicking on this link to go to the page on the website that lets you see details of our group's pre-planned walks: [Plots of previous walks \(loughboroughramblers.org.uk\)](http://loughboroughramblers.org.uk)

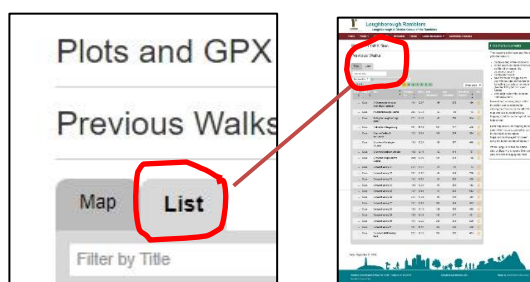
The page opens in "map" view, with the "Map" tab highlighted. The map view shows where walks are located.



**Click 1:** The page opens in Map view; the "Map" tab is highlighted. The "List" tab is next to it.

**CLICK 2:** To look at the information for single walks easily, change to "list" view. Do this by clicking on the "list" tab.

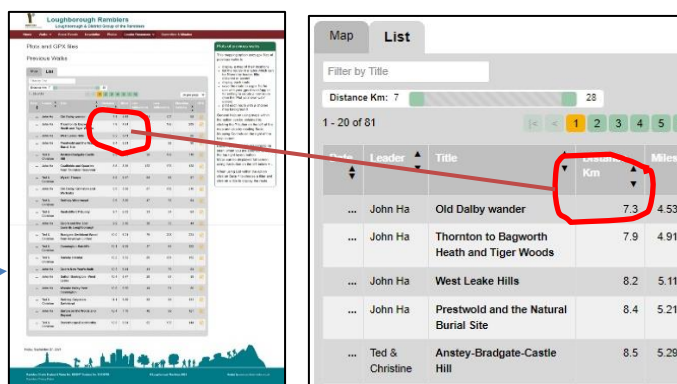
The list makes it easy for you to access the information for any one of the 80+ walks.



**Click 2:** Click on the "List" tab to make the information about walks appear as a list

**CLICK 3:** To find the shorter walks that may be useful to new walk leaders, the list can be rearranged so that short walks appear first.

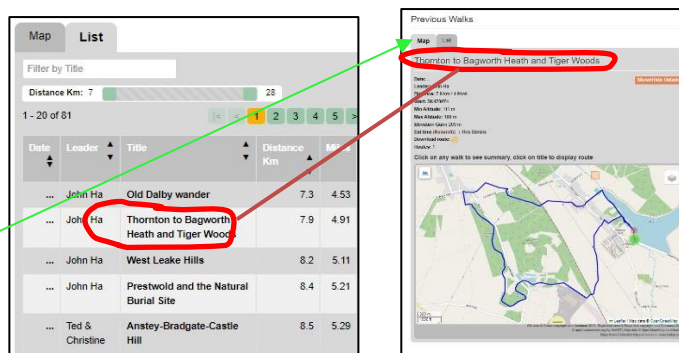
To arrange walks by length, click on the "Distance Km" column, on the upwards arrow. This makes short walks appear first. [Clicking on the downwards arrow makes long walks appear first: they are great routes, well worth browsing].



**Click 3:** Click on the arrow in the "distance" tab to bring the short walks to the start of the list

**CLICK 4:** Click on the title of a walk to access its details. These include a map of the route, details of distance and starting point, and the name of the leader who provided the information.

[CLICK 5: To go back to the main list to see the other walks, just click the "list" tab again.]

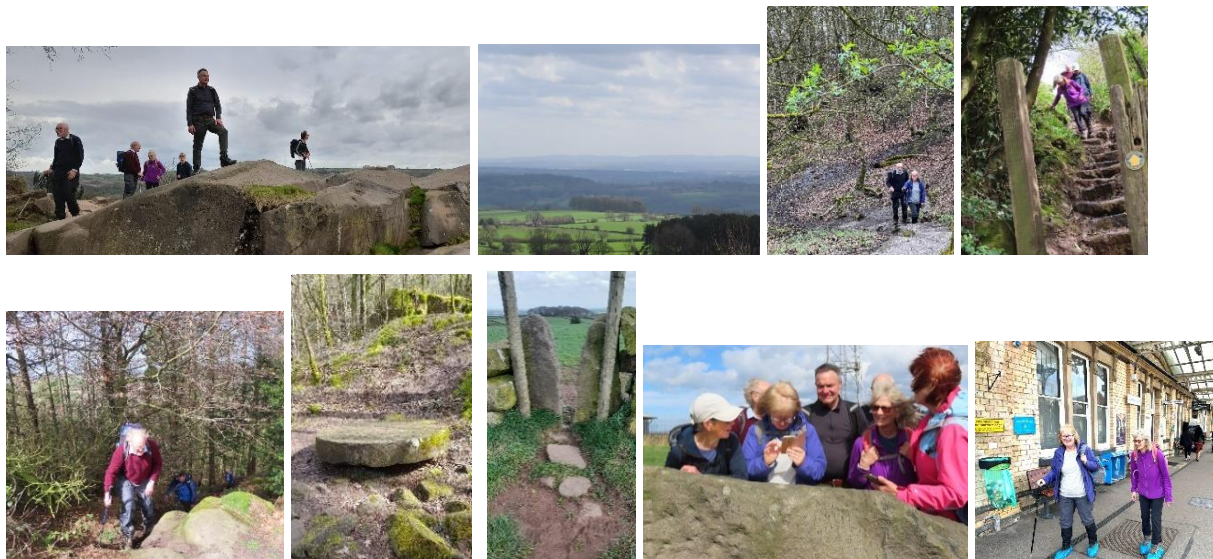


**Click 4:** Click on the walk title for its details and route map. [To return to the full list, click the "list" tab.]



## Loughborough and District Ramblers – seeking out summer 2024

### Matlock to Belper, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April



### Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April



### Malverns day trip, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April - more detail on page 4



### Burleigh Woods Bluebells Walk, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May



### Swarkestone, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May



### Mountsorrel, Wednesday 15 May





A road not taken – thankfully! Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

*"It's been raining all night; there is a weather warning until tomorrow morning; there are flood warnings in place; the BBC website forecasts 100 per cent chance of heavy rain all day. I have decided to CANCEL the walk".*

Hathersage, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June



Rothley to Abbey Park, Saturday 15 June



Rothley fish supper indulgence, Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June



Ticknall and Foremark, Wednesday 3 July



Burrough on the Hill and Twyford, Saturday 7th July

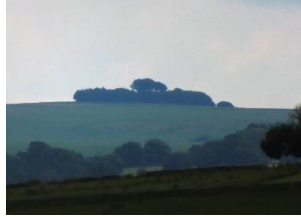




### Congerstone, Wednesday 10 July



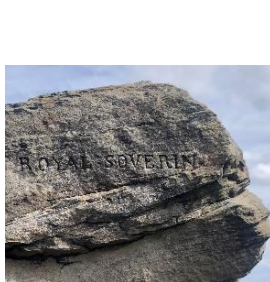
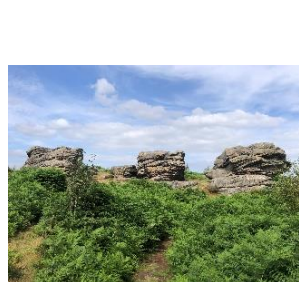
### "Magpie" walk, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July



### Rearsby, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July



### Chatsworth Five Lords Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August



### Mountsorrel rivers walk, Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August





## Broombriggs and Ulverscroft , Saturday 10th August



## Shackerstone, Wednesday 14th August



## Saturday 17 August



## Outwoods circuit with sculpture trail, Wednesday 21 August



## Sutton Bonington and Kegworth, Sat 24 August



## Groby Pool and Bradgate, Wednesday 28 August





## Monyash and Lathkill Dale, Saturday 31 August



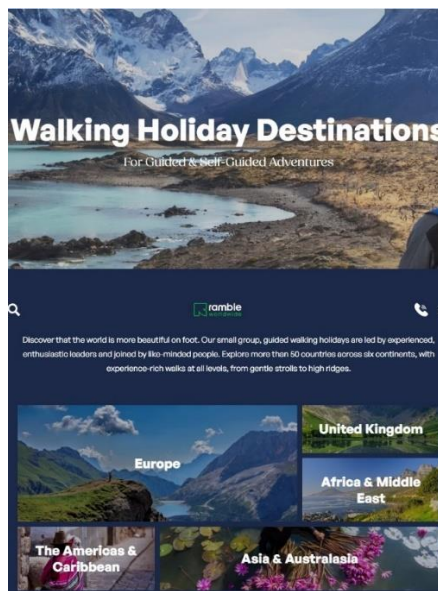
## Thornton and Bagworth, Wednesday 25th September



## Matlock's Ledge and Gorges, Saturday 28th September



I hope that you find something of interest in this newsletter. Please drop me a line at [tesskay62@outlook.com](mailto:tesskay62@outlook.com) with your ideas and offers for future editions 😊



## Find out more about Loughborough and District Ramblers at

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

