



East Yorkshire and Derwent Ramblers

Area News

January 2021

Notice of the 2021 Area Annual General Meeting

All East Yorkshire & Derwent Area Ramblers members and representatives of affiliated organisations, are invited to attend the **Annual General Meeting at 2.00pm on Saturday January 23rd 2021 on-line via Zoom at www.zoom.us/j/95368111853**

Copies of the Annual Report will be available to read on-line at the East Yorkshire and Derwent Ramblers website www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk or to download. **If you wish to receive a copy of the Annual Report by post please contact Ann Laing by 16th January, either by email to area.membership@yahoo.com or by sending a text message to 07919 105401. Some copies may be available from Group Secretaries on walks.**

After the formal meeting, Ramblers Trustee Malcolm McDonnell will address the meeting on a variety of topics, including strategies to recover membership numbers and the "Don't Lose Your Way", the lost footpaths project.

VACANT POSTS Nominations for all posts are invited, but in particular the posts of Area Chair, Area Secretary, Area Webmaster and Area Publicity Officer.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these roles then please do have a word with your group chair or secretary, or get in touch with Stephen Down on stevie@getdown.org.uk or 07765 127163.

Key Vacancies on Area Council

Area Council has been operating without a chairperson for the last two and a half years, during that time our excellent and hard working secretary Stephen Down has also taken on the role of acting-chair. Due to other commitments, Stephen now wishes to stand down as secretary but has agreed to continue in that role for a further year, if a replacement chairperson is found.



East Yorkshire and
Derwent Area
Ramblers

Annual Report 2019-20



East Yorkshire & Derwent Area Annual Report 2019-20

Catch up with the activities of your Area by reading the Annual Report, which covers the year up to the end September 2020, now available on the East Yorkshire and Derwent Ramblers website www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk The Annual Report gives details of our AGM on 23rd January via Zoom and how to join the meeting, the Area accounts, footpath reports, membership figures and reports from Area Officers and individual Groups. In addition there are some wonderful photographs of happy groups walkers enjoying walks pre-lockdown.

Happy New Year to All Our Members



Photo shows Howden & Goole Group on their first Covid-safe socially distanced walked in August, along the banks of the River Ouse



www.ramblers.org.uk

Working For Walkers

www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk

Beverley Group Holiday, 18-22nd October 2021- Inviting more Walkers to Join Them

The Beverley group would like to invite any fellow Ramblers, including members from other groups to join them for a short walking holiday in October 2021.

16 members enjoyed a group holiday in the Peak District last year, with some wonderfully scenic walks in this beautiful National Park.

This year we will be staying at Long Mynd House, Church Stretton with HF Holidays. Previously when Church Stretton was a summer resort, the house was an Art Deco period hotel and there are wonderful views over the Stretton Valley. Long Mynd House caters for the needs of walkers, with a boot room, complete with all sorts of brushes, scrapers, sinks and hoses to keep the mud at bay. The food is always great and locally sourced; it's just a problem choosing what to eat the following day for your packed lunch (included in price) and evening meal.

Church Stretton is situated about half way between Shrewsbury in the north and Ludlow in the south and is on a direct rail link from Manchester. So there is plenty to explore on a non-walking day. The walking is wonderful, although be warned, there are a few hills. Once you have gained height the views from the Long Mynd can be enjoyed, and on good days you can even make out Cadair Idris in Wales. We will be leading our own walks and the House provides excellent route suggestions.

The cost of the holiday is £309, which represents excellent value as the list price for an equivalent self guided holiday is £439. So far 11 of us have paid the deposit, and if we can get another 4 people to join us by the end of January we will share a free place, which effectively reduces to the cost to £290 for all.

If you are interested, or wish to find out more, please contact Beverley Group Secretary, Joe Neal by e-mail at: jjdneal@hotmail.co.uk We need to have your deposit by the end of January.

Joe Neal

Photo shows last year's Beverley Group holiday in the Peak District



Memorial Stone for Geoff Eastwood at Wharram Percy

The deserted village of Wharram Percy was much loved by my father, Geoff Eastwood. He would often take a break while on one of his rambles in that area, and sit down by the pond to eat a sandwich and enjoy the peace, tranquillity and solitude of this beautiful place. After he died I thought it would be a lovely gesture to place a stone by the pond in his memory. I chose a suitable stone and had it inscribed (see photo below). My sister Helen and I placed it at the edge of the pond after we scattered his ashes there.

One day I went there and was very disappointed to find that it had disappeared. I thought that someone had taken it and was really upset. However, I am happy to discover that it has since been found and placed on a nearby bench. I hope that it is still there - a little memorial to a man who loved Wharram Percy and the East Yorkshire Wolds with a passion.

Clare Eastwood

Note - the bench mentioned by Clare has since been removed due to age and vandalism, but the last time walkers passed through, the stone was in place near the pond, where we believe it will be respected by visitors. Geoff was a remarkable man who did an enormous amount for walkers in this Area and nationally. As Ray Wallis wrote in his obituary for Geoff in 2016: "When you are walking in our area, please spare a thought for Geoff, as it is highly likely that the path you are using has been defended and promoted by him in past decades."

Peter Ayling



Update - Ramblers '2026 - Don't Lose Your Way' campaign (DLYW)

Reading the winter edition of Ramblers Walk magazine, members' attention was hopefully drawn to a feature concerning progress on identifying lost paths before 2026's cut-off date. Eye catching, emerging statistical outcomes from the project illustrate challenges ahead. As a reminder, phase one was essentially a desk top exercise. Volunteers, comfortably at home, compared OS maps © 1900 with those of today, highlighting paths on the former not appearing on the latter. Findings were checked and verified to arrive at released figures.

Non - members made up 80% of almost three and a half thousand volunteers! So from Ramblers national membership of approaching one hundred thousand, there was approximately 700 volunteers! How many from our Area?

In January, Ramblers DLYW project team will release details of lost paths by local authority area. This is a starting point for identifying and prioritising paths to research and investigate towards an application. Emphasis will be on improving our rights of way network. Volunteers are needed to undertake this next difficult but most important stage, essentially evidence gathering. It includes examining maps, tracing various historical documents, research at archives, taking photographs, site visits and preparing applications. Project sponsorship has realised funds, part of which is being applied to training and materials, including videos for interpretation of and using important historical documents.

To claim some lost paths in the group areas of East Riding of Yorkshire I should be pleased to hear from members who feel they can contribute. If sufficient interest is shown an initial meeting [subject to Covid compliance], short training sessions would be organised.

For more information please check the following website.

<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/dont-lose-your-way-2026.aspx>

Tony Corrigan



News From the York Group

In November we held our AGM via Zoom; it was quite a lively meeting, with 25 members taking part, including visitors from other groups. During the second lockdown many of us have walked with a friend on a regular basis. As soon as the end of the 2nd lockdown was announced on 2nd December, we were able to plan the resumption of our led walks under Ramblers Central Office Covid-safe guidelines. The York Group has 5 separate sections and each decides how they want to organise their walks, as has always been the case.

The Amblers are walking in unofficial groups of six, with the walk being repeated during the week. The Tuesday walks section meets once a fortnight, with a maximum of ten walkers, using a booking system. The Wednesday walks section meets every week if enough leaders volunteer, and the leader decides on the maximum number of walkers, and may use a booking system. Sadly, the public transport walks have been unable to resume their walking activities so far.

We're very grateful to the section leaders for putting the various walk programmes together so promptly. The Tuesday and Wednesday walks are to be found on the York website. Our only disappointment we have is that we can't walk in Tier 3 areas, and our members who live in Tier 3 areas cannot join us on our walks. We have been encouraging members to continue with the parish path surveys, which many of us have been able to do this year.

Ian Reavill, York Group

Monday Area Walks Group

After the first lockdown when we were informed by the Ramblers we could start walks again but with Covid-safe restrictions, myself and other walk leader Peter Godfrey were a bit apprehensive but we decided to e-mail our Monday walkers explaining the new rules and restrictions and that we would be starting walks with groups of 12.

This was very successful and just communicating with walkers by e-mail worked very well. However we found that after the initial 3 walks, the walks were starting to be fully booked in a very short time and so we decided to increase the group size to 15.

During the 2nd lockdown we have recced some new walks for next year and have checked out other walks for any problems for when we can get back to our normal group walks again.

Photo below shows our Covid-safe walk from Hotham on 7th December



Peter Harrison

Hull & Holderness Group

Our Covid-safe walks programme was only just getting started again when we went into second lockdown on 5th November, so we've managed very few led walks since March. This is disappointing, as our three 2020 walks before Covid attracted 40, 40 and 60 walkers respectively! Many of those were not members and we were hoping for a big boost in membership, but sadly that has evaporated and we'll need to build up again in 2021, or whenever the pandemic ends.

That doesn't mean to say that Ramblers have not been out walking - far from it. In the first lockdown we took up the challenge to find quiet, little visited places away from the crowds, and some of us explored Sunk Island, walks along the River Hull, and the edge lands of Hull and Beverley. We've noticed that people are still interested in our Facebook page - 600 followers, which is nearly four times our actual membership! We try to inspire people with photos and descriptions of walks, and frankly, to cheer each other up. Some members have been busy reporting blocked paths and broken signposts, or getting involved with the Ramblers "Don't Lose Your Way" project, or joining the path maintenance group. We are now organising walks as we go along, with no long-term programme, and advertising them on the Ramblers website. All walks are booked in advance - we have found email and phone are adequate for this - and one advantage of advance booking, as we discovered one particularly inclement weekend, is that it's very easy to cancel walks at short notice! We may continue with this system.

Steve Lack (Photo- taken near Givendale on a Covid-safe walk after the 1st lockdown)



No Six Monthly Led Walks Programme to be Issued during the Pandemic

Ramblers Central Office have stated that during the Coronavirus pandemic, Ramblers groups should not distribute three or six months led walking programmes in advance to members. Rates of Covid infection are changing quickly & are likely to increase during the winter months. Led group walks programmes need to be flexible, with short deadlines. All led walks must comply with the Ramblers Covid-safe guidance. See our Area and National Ramblers websites.

Led walks are limited to a maximum of 30 walkers, although many groups prefer smaller numbers of walkers such as 15 or less. Walkers must maintain physical distancing of at least one metre at all times, especially at car parks and any gates; car sharing is strongly discouraged. Walkers are required to give their contact details and usually must book their place in advance. Walk leaders need to complete a risk assessment form before each walk.