



Message From our New Area Chair-Roy Hunt

It is good to be back involved with Ramblers local activities, having been away for the past two or three years. It is an interesting time to return because so much has changed in the intervening period. I am told that since the lockdowns ended we have attracted almost record numbers of new members. I imagine that most of these are people who discovered countryside walking during Covid. Central Office (CO) has done a good job in ensuring that our Areas and Groups have been kept up to speed with government restrictions relating to Covid.

My immediate focus has been to establish the impact of the Covid restrictions on our walks programmes. I have received reports from Group representatives which indicate that across our Area we have lost quite a large number of walk leaders. There are a number of reasons given:

- We naturally lose leaders over time, but without the walks programmes operating we have been unable to recruit as many new leaders as we have lost.
- I am aware that small groups of our members who walked together during the lockdowns are continuing to walk independently of our walks programmes, leading to a loss of walkers and leaders.
- There is a resistance to the new walk risk assessments being introduced by CO, that changes the way that our leaders have historically dealt with risk in planning and leading walks. I should point out that these new risk assessments cannot (for constitutional reasons) be imposed on Areas and Groups, but we are being told that our insurance is dependent on them. I am following this up with CO.

The lack of walk leaders in some Groups is making it difficult for walks secretaries to plan far ahead. Some are filling spaces incrementally and others are operating a rolling programme.

My main message is that we need more people to volunteer their time as walk leaders. All of our Groups can help those who may be uncertain of what walk leadership entails, so if prospective leaders need to know more either contact someone in your own Group, or if you prefer, call me on 07783 534501 to see if I can help.

At our last Area Council meeting we discussed the possibility of abandoning the printed walks booklets. When I used to publish them, they were considered essential for our walkers, posting out over 1500 booklets every six months. During the lockdowns we have had to publish our walks via the internet, and this seems to have worked well. I have written to all of our Groups asking for their views prior to our next Area Council meeting, when we will decide whether or not to propose a motion to our Area AGM for a decision. If anyone has views one way or another, could I ask you to make them known to your own Group committee?

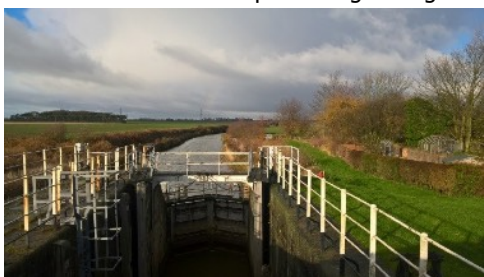
We are fortunate that our Area functions very well, but we do need more people to serve on our Area Council. There are many roles that need more helpers so that we can be even better. On Area Council we need a Minutes Secretary and someone to maintain our Area website from next January, so plenty of time to find out what is required and how you can help. We also need more people to help establish new rights of way as part of the national "Don't Lose Your Way" project. In fact any help that can be offered in any way, would be gratefully appreciated.

Market Weighton Canal Trail Secures National Lottery Support.

Market Weighton Town Council has received a National Lottery Heritage Fund Grant towards the Market Weighton Canal Trail Project, aimed at creating and enhancing the public right of way from Market Weighton Town centre to Weighton Lock on the Humber estuary. The Canal Trail project provides a North - South link to the Trans-Pennine Trail and the Wolds Way and will highlight and inform walkers about the heritage and history of the land it passes through, whilst providing a post Covid healthy walking route in open countryside under big skies.

The route between Market Weighton and the Humber encompasses Iron Age settlements, eighteenth century canal locks and a range of wildlife. Gathering both physical and oral history from local communities and recording the flora and fauna along the route will be important parts of the project. As the project progresses there will be opportunities for volunteers to lead walks and activities and help with organising the project.

Tony Corrigan,
Pocklington Group





York (Wednesday) Group enjoying a walk near Grassington

New Murdock Pedestrian Bridge in Hull

Twenty years ago the A63 Castle Street and the River Hull cut off the Hull Marina from the rest of the city. Since then, two new footbridges and the development of the promenade through the Victoria Dock estate have opened up many possibilities for walks. Now at last the long-awaited footbridge over the A63 has opened (officially the "Murdock Connection", named after pioneering Hull GP Mary Murdoch). You can now walk from the Railway station / bus terminus right through to the Humber with



only one major road and one quiet road to cross. The promenade doubles up as part of the Trans Pennine Trail from Liverpool to Hornsea, and will soon take on a third role as part of the England Coast Path. The route (going from the Humber Bridge to Spurn) is currently under consideration by the government agency Natural England (NE). The trail will run mostly along the banks of the Humber, apart from one section where we disagree with NE. They want to divert inland from King George Dock, for 2 miles along Hedon Road and thence to Paull, whereas Ramblers would like the path to stick to the Humber, past the docks and Salt End. We suspect the Port and Docks authority and BP disagree. We are awaiting the final decision from NE.

Many thanks to Tom Heaton and Peter Ayling for the extraordinary amount of work they have put into this project over the years."

Steve Lack, Chair- Hull & Holderness Group



Photo shows the Pocklington Group on a walk near Flamborough this summer

Notice of 2022 Area AGM

Our Area AGM will take place on Saturday 22nd January at 2pm. We are hoping to be able to hold a live meeting which will take place in York (venue to be decided). There will be a walk organised for the morning and we are hoping that a member of the Board of Trustees will address the meeting. Our guest speaker is Malcolm Hodgson, National Trails Officer for the Yorkshire Wolds Way and the Cleveland Way.

However if there is a surge in Covid infections, the decision will be made to hold a virtual AGM via Zoom. Further information will be available after our next Area Council meeting on 30th November.

New Area web-master urgently needed

Tony Corrigan has done a marvellous job as our Area Webmaster for the last 9 years but is standing down at the AGM, it is very important that this role is filled; during this pandemic especially our Area website has become a vital means of communication.

Volunteer Needed for Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) Steering Group

The TPT is a cycling trail and a European Long Distance Walking Route (E8) from Southport to Hornsea, with links to towns such as York. It has a Friends of the TPT Group and also a Steering Group which has members from the local Councils through which the TPT runs and also members from various User Groups. The TPT passes through several Ramblers Areas and each Area is entitled to nominate a member on the Steering Group.

We are now seeking someone willing to be on the Steering Group for our Area, which covers the TPT between Hornsea and Selby, plus the link to York. Peter Ayling was our member for many years and I have been our member for the last 5 years, but would like to step down. I have too many jobs already and at 80 I should be passing on jobs, rather than taking on new ones.

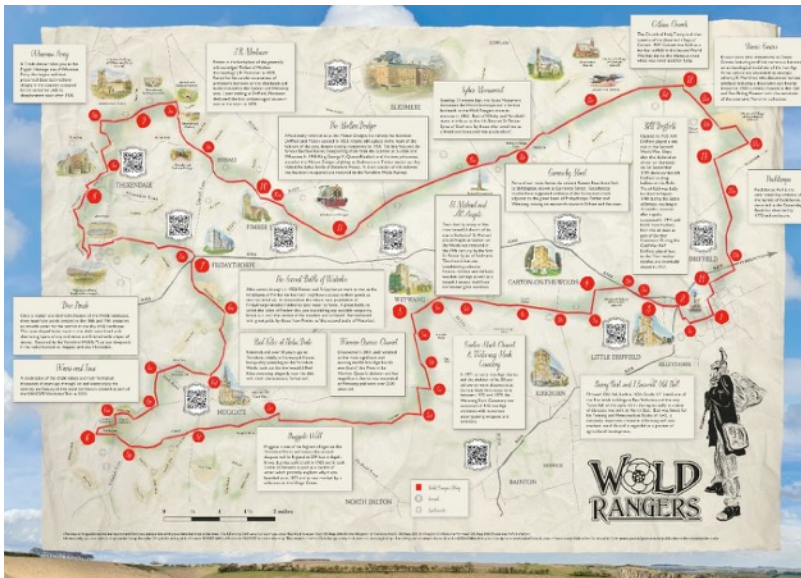
We receive Annual Reports and attend a Members Steering Group Meeting, currently every 3 years, to discuss activity and work on the TPT plus a couple of interesting speakers on matters relevant to the TPT and of course Networking.

The TPT is administered by staff based at Barnsley Council Offices and the route is split into 3 sections. The Eastern Section starts at Doncaster and they would like a Ramblers Representative for this section. There are 4 meetings per year by Zoom and you can have sight of the last year's minutes if you are interested. It would be a useful job to assist Ramblers and you could liaise with West Riding & South Yorkshire Ramblers for those small parts in their Areas.

David Nunns, York & North Yorkshire Footpath Secretary

The Wold Rangers Way

East Yorkshire's market town of Driffield, known locally as "Capital of the Wolds", has launched a new long distance trail. "The Wold Rangers Way" is a 43 miles circular walk with five inner loops of between 3 and 22 miles, all starting and finishing in Driffield Market Place. Routes connect villages by following public rights of way, including many 'green lanes', historically walked for over 200 years by 'Wold Rangers'.



Embracing 'staycation', an initiative of Driffield Town Council for promoting their town and surrounding countryside to locals and visitors was this long distance trail, incorporating shorter inner loops. Using 'Wold Rangers' folklore provides added interest, enabling a themed link between walks and local history.

The trail name was chosen in recognition of 'Wolds Rangers' with each inner loop walk or 'trod' being dedicated to a named ranger. A town council working group, joined by an officer from East Riding of Yorkshire's Countryside Access Team and Tony Corrigan of Pocklington Ramblers was formed. Proposed routes were surveyed, an inventory of way mark and signage requirements determined and route instructions with historical snippets prepared for individual maps.

Leading up to the official opening, way marking the main trail was done by Pocklington Group's Footpath Maintenance Team. A total of 21 new posts were installed on green lanes and rights of way. Trail logo badges were affixed to a further 40 posts. Covid restrictions delayed launch day until 7th August 2021. About 150 walkers gathered at Driffield Market Place start point, indicated by new bespoke seats and map information board. Ramblers' volunteers i.e. Tony Corrigan, Gerry Hutchinson, Ann Laing, Denise Lester and Marian Thomas led or back marked the middle distance walks and Graham Hadfield led a long walk. At staggered intervals, groups of fifteen, set off along the various trails. Overall, a very well organised day by Driffield Council.



Who were The Wold Rangers?

A nomadic group of rural gentlefolk, utterly unique to the Wolds of yesteryear, who trod bridle paths and ancient green lanes across East Yorkshire's spectacular Wolds. Travelling from farm to farm seeking shelter and sustenance in exchange for work, they remain an integral part of Yorkshire Wolds agricultural folklore; stories of their adventures passing down through generations.

Certain individuals were 'characters', developing reputations and becoming 'well known' to farmers. They acquired nicknames such as Croom Mabel, Horsehair Jack, Ginger Joe, Mad Halifax, Norfolk Bob, Manchester Lily.

Some current residents still recall the last Wold Rangers; 'Dog Geordie' sitting in Driffield Market Place with his dog and ferret, before taking himself back to his little caravan. 'Dog Geordie' died in 1987.

Named inner loops or trods are Croom Mable [3 miles]: Horsehair Jack [9 miles]: Ginger Joe [13 miles]: Dog Geordie [17 miles]: Mad Halifax [22 miles]. 'The Yorkshire Wold Rangers', a book written and illustrated by Angela Antrim was published in 1981. It provides informative and amusing historical recollections of many individuals in this band of wanderers.

Visit www.woldrangersway.org for interesting background information, history and to download maps. Tony Corrigan, Pocklington Group

Goodmanham Disused Railway Line -Protecting Rights of Way Success



A local resident supported by a Ramblers Volunteer has succeeded in getting part of a disused railway line added to the Definitive Map of public rights of way. An 1100m section of track bed had been in use as a footpath between the communities of Goodmanham and Market Weighton for at least 50 years, until blocked off in August 2017 by local landowners. An application claiming it as a right of way, based on approximately 45 user evidence documents, was made to East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

In January 2019, they made an order for a restricted byway but this became subject of appeal. In March 2021, The Secretary of State's Planning Inspector ruled in favour of the applicant, confirming the order with an amendment of status to footpath. Rambler's photographs taken in August 2017 of the obstruction were referred to in the Inspector's report. He noted they showed the centre of the track bed as

clear of vegetation and what appeared to be a narrow well-worn path running alongside it. This was helpful as the Inspector's site visit was not until October 2020 – good practice to take photographs!



To complete the process, volunteers of Pocklington Ramblers Footpaths Maintenance Team have cleared undergrowth and installed way mark posts.

Tony Corrigan, Pocklington Group

Driffield Show 21st-22nd July

This year's Driffield Show was able to go ahead over two days. As usual we shared a marquee with the National Trails (which includes the Wolds Way), which halved the cost. Volunteers from four of our Area's Groups helped out and although attendance was limited each day, there were still plenty of people interested in our display.



Photo shows a volunteer by our tent with the display.

Area Camp Friday 11th-Monday 14th June

This year's Area camp was at Hadrians Wall Campsite, Melkridge, Northumberland.

17 members attended the camp from various groups in our Area, there were 7 tent campers, 3 in camper vans, 5 were in B&Bs, and 2 rented a cottage. The camp was organised on behalf of the East Yorkshire and Derwent Ramblers by Wayne and Donna Dosdale.

As usual on the Friday afternoon there was a short walk (Cawfields), full day walks on Saturday (Hadrians Wall) and Sunday (Lambley viaduct) and a short walk on Monday morning (Bardon mill circular).



Photo shows the group descending Hadrian's Wall to Steel Ring

Howardian Hills AONB Joint Advisor Committee- Volunteer Needed

The Howardian Hills AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) partnership is funded by Defra, North Yorkshire County Council and the local District Councils. The Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) was established to guide the management of the AONB and has a key role in implementing, monitoring and reviewing the management plan and generally promoting the Howardian Hills.

The JAC comprises of local authorities, statutory agencies, landowners, farming and community groups including the Ramblers. The committee meets twice a year, our Ramblers representative on the Committee has recently resigned and it would be useful to have a replacement, sitting on this committee, it would be an interesting insight into the valuable work of the AONB and the dedicated work of its officers. If interested please e-mail the Area secretary at thomas.marian@btinternet.com

Contributions to January 2022 Area News should be sent to Marian Thomas by 1st December 2021
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