

Area Chairman and Secretary step down

Well, it's goodbye from him and goodbye from me. Both Malcolm and I will be standing down at the AGM as Secretary and Chairman respectively. Malcolm has done an admirable job as Area Secretary, and his hard work has ensured that the Area has functioned effectively over the five years or so he has held office, not to mention his work as Area News Editor before that.

Celebrating Success

In saying my own farewells as your Chairman, I look back on a period when our area has taken forward a number of issues. Our access team has succeeded in gaining the right to roam in many lovely areas which were previously out of bounds and my term of office culminated in our celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Wolds Way. The celebratory walks proved an outstanding success in many ways. Each of the six stages attracted an average of around 40 walkers. Those attending were, in the main, people who do not usually attend our walks. We attracted non-members to the walks and, as a result, some of them have joined the RA.



Geoff Eastwood, Area President, holding the banner with his daughter Helen, who cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony in 1982. Also pictured are Ann Holt, David Rubinstein, Ron Shaw, Kate Ashbrook and Dennis Parker.
Photo courtesy of Ann Laing



Nettledale, 25th Anniversary of the opening of the Wolds Way, October 2nd, 2007
Photo courtesy of Ron Shaw

My thanks to our local groups for supplying the leaders for each stage, and to Peter Ayling and Rosie Broadhead for catching the public's imagination with their publicity, Malcolm Dixon, Dany Wlodarczyk and Ann Laing for the bus organisation and Ken Walker and Colin Mullender who kept an eye on all the walks at the back. We had the support of the National Trails Officer (Malcolm Hodgson) who organised freebies and helped with the cost of the buses.

October 2nd Events

Our celebration lunch and rally on the anniversary of the actual opening were a great opportunity to meet up with some of our RA predecessors in this area as well as representatives of other bodies. A very big thank you to all who helped in this effort, to Kate Ashbrook, Dennis Parker and our out-going president Geoff Eastwood and his daughter who made the joint celebratory day at Fridaythorpe so memorable.

I am sorry to have been missing from walks recently. Apart from family commitments, a number of minor ailments have kept me out of circulation for almost three months.

Chris Bush Area Chairman

Excerpts from Kate Ashbrook's speech at the event can be found on page four.

Full of Optimism

Lord Peter Melchett, formerly President of the RA and now Policy Director of the Soil Association, could not attend the event on October 2nd but sent a letter to be read out on the occasion:

"The opening of the Wolds Way stands out for me as one of the highlights of my time as President of the Ramblers' Association. Our fury at the decision not to allow the route through the magical, deserted village of Wharram Percy led us to hold an unofficial Ramblers' opening..."

"I've returned to the Wolds Way for walking holidays since then, and each visit to Wharram Percy leaves me more outraged at the short-lived ban, full of optimism at the way attitudes to access continue to change for the better, and full of gratitude to the many ramblers who came before us who showed such courage, determination and foresight."



Malcolm Dixon, Area Secretary, opens the gate in Holm Dale for Alan Bailey, Chairman of Disabled Charity Walks.
Photo courtesy of Ann Laing

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Wolds Way Section 4

Saturday 18th August 2007

Were you there on the day? If so, Clive's account will bring back memories. If not, perhaps you will be inspired to walk this favourite stretch of the Wolds Way.

Despite a poor weather forecast, an encouraging number of walkers assembled to board the bus in Norton Car Park. We had a short pleasant ride, alighting at Fridaythorpe from where we headed west and soon entered the typical dry valleys of this area. Did I see Blubberdale indicated on a wayside notice? No blubbing for us, as the obvious enthusiasm for the walk had now set in.

A short break allowed the party to consolidate and enjoy the views. Then we turned north and on into Thixendale village with its welcome tea-room. Regrettably, we hear this is soon to close.

Beyond the village, we met two stiff but brief climbs before turning east alongside the woodland of North Plantation. A pleasant, level stroll brought us to the parting of the ways. Ahead lay the old route leading to the Burdale Road, but we descended to the now accessible site of Wharram Percy medieval village, truly a special place, where we had lunch near the fishpond and church ruins.

Duly refreshed, we then headed east, crossing the disused Malton to Driffield railway track and up to the minor road near Bella Farm. North again into Wharram le Street and on through the village towards Malton.

We carefully crossed the B1248 and headed north to the B1253. After crossing these two roads, we descended on to the farm access track between North Grimston and Wood House. Passing through the farm, we entered the long woodland plantation leading to High Bellamaneer and Settrington Beacon.

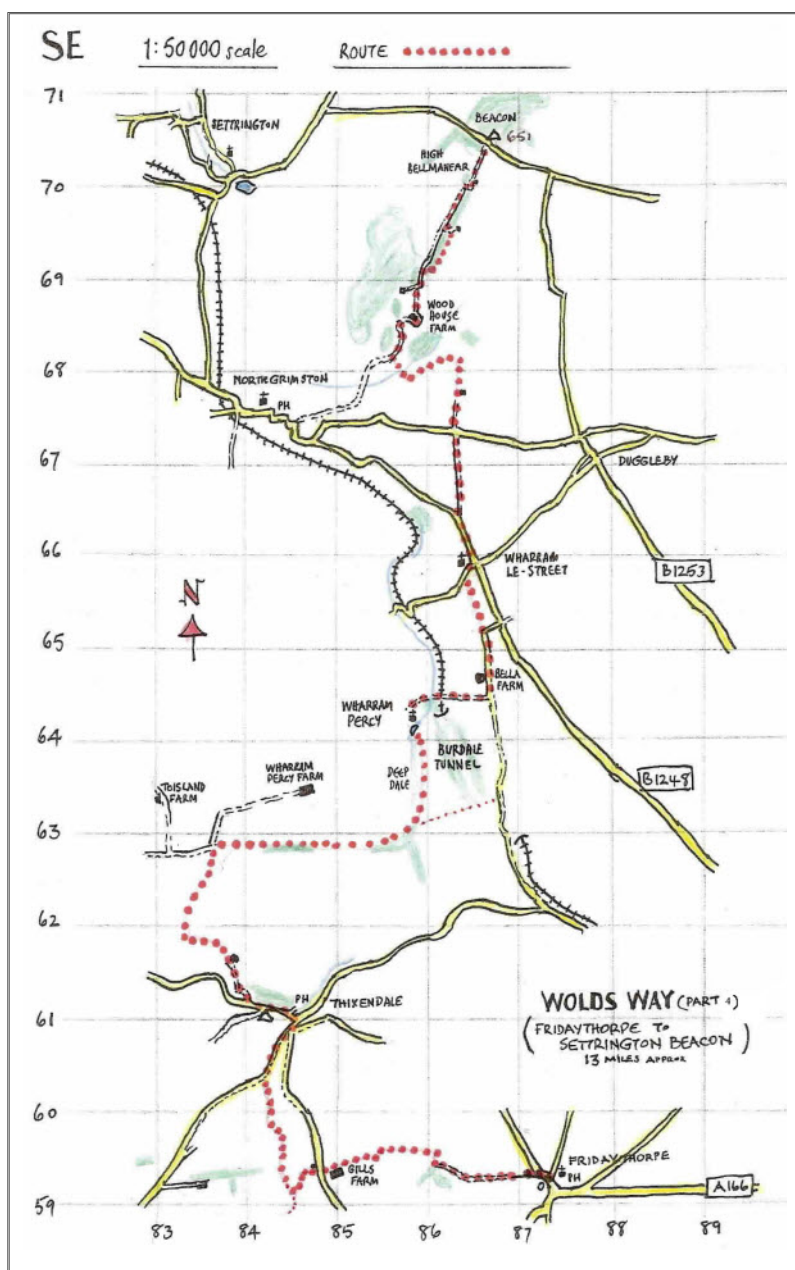
After a short refreshment break, it was but a stroll to the minor road where stood the welcoming sight of our transport back to Norton. Time to sit back, reflect on the day and remind ourselves of our extreme good fortune in having such wonderful walking country all around us.

Congratulations are due to our organiser, leader, backmarker and the bus company for a very successful event in celebration of 25 years of Wolds Way walking.

Clive Inman, participant

For a full page version of the sketch-map, click on Favourite Walks on the Walks page of our website www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk

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Improvements near West Lutton



Thanks to North Yorkshire County Council for replacing this stile and missing way-marks on rights of way near the village. Some readers may remember one of our walkers ripping her trousers when the route was previously blocked with barbed wire at this point. Photo courtesy of Dany Wlodarczyk

White cliffs of the south coast to wild cliffs of Northumberland

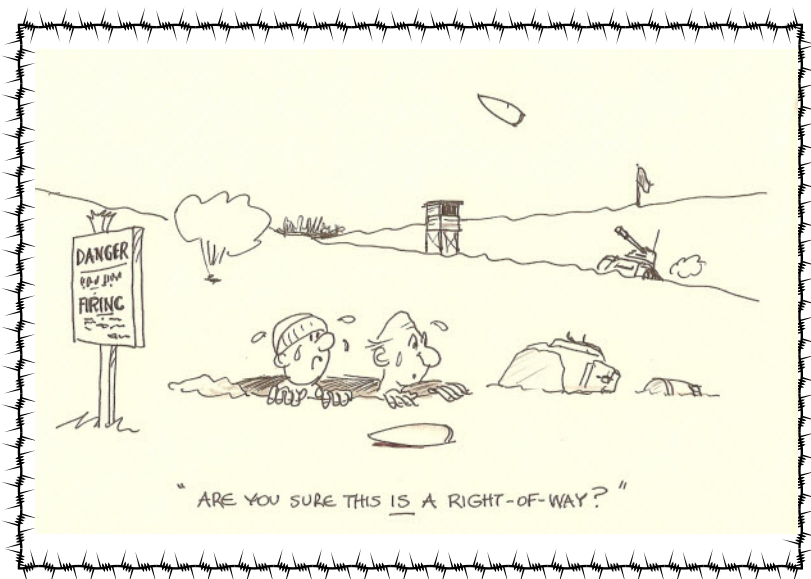
Excerpts taken from Kate Ashbrook's speech at the rally celebrating the opening of the Wolds Way

The RA in East Yorkshire has done a huge amount to make the countryside more accessible. This is an area which has traditionally had little access. Many paths were not on the definitive map (I remember the battles with Humberside County Council over its deplorable definitive map). It has few commons and open spaces.

Renewed opposition from Lord Middleton

But now it has many more paths, and in particular magnificent access land in the dales: the new Explorer maps show the brown fingers of access land. That's thanks in particular to Tom Halstead who led the access work in the Area. But this too was not without a fight. The Birdsall Estate (Lord Middleton again) opposed every parcel of its land that we claimed. This led to many inquiries. The Halifax Estate too challenged 35 areas (of which we won 21). Forty landowners made 106 appeals. It was a huge amount of work but we had great success, as the map shows.

Now we need to get access to the access land, too many areas are inaccessible, stopping short of a road or public path. We need paths to link them up. We must lobby the county councils to sort this out.



Coastal access - a real possibility

Moving on, coastal access is a real possibility. We look set to win not just a measly path round the coast, where we are hemmed in between a receding cliff and a barbed-wire fence, but a broad corridor of access which will roll back as the coastline is eroded.

At the Labour party conference, the Secretary of State for Environment, Hilary Benn, said: 'I can confirm today that we now intend to legislate so that each of us has, for the first time in our history, the right to walk around our coastline from the white cliffs of the South coast to the wild cliffs of Northumberland.' And he could have added your wonderful chalk cliffs at Bridlington...

The same spirited campaigning by Ramblers' volunteers, which won us the Wolds Way and our access land, will ensure we also win proper access to our coasts.

Kate Ashbrook

RA National Chairman

OS Overdose Grid square junkie tells all...

I was sceptical at first. People claiming the world would turn a different colour? But curiosity got the better of me and soon I was surfing the net to find out what was causing all the excitement. If only I had heeded the timely warning in Area News...

HOOKED AFTER A FEW DRAGS

Some people dabbled a little and then lost interest. Not me. A few drags of the mouse and I was hooked. Nothing in life had prepared me for the thrill of claiming my very own square of grass green.

REGULAR FIXES

From then on, I needed that regular fix. I realised I wasn't the only one. Obvious, now, why some people went dashing off at the end of a walk, eyes glinting, no word of farewell. They had to get home, file reports and claim those squares.

PATH TO NOWHERE

At first the highs were easy to come by, but then supplies began to dwindle and the downward spiral began. Tantalising little white rectangles were still available, but way off the beaten track, places you would never normally choose to go. Sometimes I wondered what I was doing out there on the path to nowhere.

BLIGHTED LIFE

Gradually, my whole life became blighted. Shameful to confess, but I even got friends hooked on the habit. Family life suffered - no more weekly drives to the coast for Gran. Now I found myself abandoning her in some lonely lay-by on her precious day out while I tramped off in search of my kicks.

EVEN CHRISTMAS DAY...

Christmas Day. I promised not to leave the house. Handed over my collection of Explorer maps, all my boot and shoe laces and the car keys. But now they're all snoozing in front of the TV, I succumb to the craving, unearth a pair of flip-flops and slip out of the back door. Thank goodness for that folded, emergency print-out in my wallet showing 100 yards of litter-strewn alleyway still to be checked out on the seedier side of town....

BLEAK FUTURE

The future looks bleak. Left alone to cope with cold turkey at the end of December? Or will the RA provide an effective substitute for **www.useyourpaths.info** users when they withdraw the web-site? A helpline, branches of Gridaholics Anonymous? Please, please, don't abandon us now.

DESPERATE

Name and address withheld

SUPPLEMENTARY WALKS INFORMATION

The information below supplements that which you will find in our 2007 - 2008 programme booklet. All members, friends and potential members are welcome to join any of our groups for walks. Details of all walks including links to maps showing the starting point are also available at **www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk**

YORK GROUP WEDNESDAY AMBLES -						
Date	Time	Miles	Start	Parking	Leader	Grid Ref
JAN 16	10.30	8	STOCKTON ON FOREST	VHCP	JOHN WHIPP	658 564
JAN 23	10.30	8	COPMANTHORPE	SPORTSFIELD CP	JENNY AND MALCOLM DIXON	568 468
JAN 30	10.30	8	FLAXTON	VHCP	ALAN CLARK	678 624
FEB 06	10.30	8	WHELDRAKE BROAD HIGHWAY	(LANE TO WEST OF SCHOOL)	STEVE ETCHELLS	678 455
FEB 13	10.30	8	DUNNINGTON	INTAKE LANE	MARGARET GREEN	675 526
FEB 20	10.30	8	PICKERING	ROUNDABOUT CP	ANN LAING	799 838
FEB 27	10.30	8	SELBY	RUFC CP	ARTHUR BLOOMFIELD	594 316
MAR 05	10.30	8	SEATON ROSS	CHURCH	BILL HEDISON	782 413
MAR 12	10.30	8	YEARSLEY	CROSSROADS	JEAN DUFFIELD	586 746
MAR 19	10.30	8	WELTON	FB NORTH SIDE	KEN WALKER	957 271
MAR 26	10.30	8	SETTRINGTON	VHCP	DOROTHY PAMPLIN	834 707
APR 02	10.30	8	FORGE VALLEY Limited parking - please share cars if possible.		JULIAN VAN DER BURG	984 875
APR 09	10.30	8	FARNDAL	LOW MILL CP	MARGARET GREEN	673 953
APR 16	10.30	8	SHERBURN IN ELMET	CHURCH	DOREEN FELTON	488 358
APR 23	10.30	8	FRIDAYTHORPE	POND	ANNE ALLISON	875 591
APR 30	10.30	8	RIPLEY	VILLAGE CP	JACKIE GLEW	286 602
MAY 07	10.30	8	SUTTON BANK	CP	ERIC WHITELEY	517 832
MAY 14	10.30	8	BOSTON SPA	VHCP	MICK WEBSTER	430 457
MAY 21	10.30	8	CAWOOD		JOHN POWELL	575 378
MAY 28	10.30	8	WIGGINTON	Car boot sale site Junction Mill Lane/Helmsley B1363 Road tbc	JOHN WHIPP	590 585

For further information please contact:

Jackie Glew Tel: **01423 869489** Mobile: **07858 145079** Email: glewj@ntlworld.com

Margaret Green Tel: **01423 330242** Mobile: **07710 850790**

SCARBOROUGH GROUP THURSDAY MORNING WALKS (Approximately 6 miles)

Leader Margaret Ingham All welcome, optional bar snack to follow

Date	Time	Miles	Start	Grid Ref
Thurs Jan 3 rd	10.00	6	Cayley Arms Allerston	876 830
Thurs Jan 10 th	10.00	6	Staindale Lake Pub Con	878 905
Thurs Jan 24 th	10.00	6	Cockmoor Hall Car Park	915 868
Thurs Feb 7 th	10.00	6	Saltergate Car Park	852 937
Thurs Feb 21 st	10.00	6	Bickley Gate Car Park	911 910
Thurs Mar 6 th	10.00	6	Ravenscar Mast	970 012
Thurs Mar 20 th	10.00	6	Thornton Dale (Amenity Site)	843 834
Thurs Apr 3 rd	10.00	6	Lowna Car Park	686 910
4 Thurs Apr 17 th	10.00	6	Goathland. Car Park near Hunt House	814 991

YORK GROUP PUBLIC TRANSPORT WALKS			
Date	Miles	Start	Return
Sat Jan 12 th	7.5	Catch the 09.30 No.30 Reliance Bus from Exhibition Square in York to Easingwold	Returning from Sutton at 13.30, 14.30 or 15.30.
Sun Jan 27 th	5	York Millennium Way Stage 5 Meet at 2pm on Wiggington Road Buses: either 6 or 23	Finish at Museum Gardens (via Clifton, Clifton Ings & River Ouse)
Sun Feb 10 th	10	Selby Horseshoe circular with Howden & Goole RA Group. Catch 415 Arriva bus at 09.53 in Piccadilly or 10.00 opp York Rail Station to Selby Bus Station (10.45). It also picks up at Fulford, Naburn Outlet Village (P&R), Escrick, Riccall and Barlby. Lunch stop at the Fox Inn in Thorpe Willoughby,	
Sat Mar 15 th	16	Minster Way Stage 1 North Dalton to Beverley The first of four stages along this 50 mile walk between York & Beverley Minsters Catch the 09.18 744 EYMS bus from York War Memorial to North Dalton.	
Sat Apr 19 th	12	Minster Way Stage 2 North Dalton to Pocklington Catch the 10.18 744 EYMS bus from York War Memorial to North Dalton.	
Sat Sept 20 th	17	Minster Way Stage 3 Kexby to Pocklington Catch the 08.47 X46 EYMS bus from York Rail Stn to Kexby	
Sat Oct 4 th	11	Minster Way Stage 4 Kexby to York Catch the 10.33 744 EYMS bus from York War Memorial to Kexby	
For more information about York RA Group's Public Transport walks or to be added to either our e-mail or postal list contact Malcolm Dixon, 8 Horseman Avenue, Copmanthorpe, York YO23 3UF Tel 01904-706850 or m.s.dixon@talktalk.net Details will also be published on the York Group website www.communigate.co.uk/york/yorkramblers and at www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk			

BEVERLEY GROUP EXTRA WEDNESDAY WALKS					
Date	Time	Miles	Start	Leader	Grid Ref
WEDS FEB 13	10.00	6	WATTON LAYBY	PETER AYLING	TA 018 497
WEDS FEB 27	10.00	6	MILLINGTON CHURCH	JEAN CAVILL	SE 830 519
WEDS MAR 19	10.00	6	BEVERLEY CLUMP	GERRY WALLACE	SE 945 327
WEDS MAR 26	10.00	6	ELLOUGHTON POST OFFICE	DANY WLODARCZYK	SE 946 282

HOWDEN AND GOOLE GROUP SPRING PROGRAMME				
Date	Time	Meeting Place	Walk Details	Leader
6 th JAN SUN	10.30	Barmby on the Marsh Car Park SE 681 286	Barmby on the Marsh circular 5 miles	C Edwards and D Cox
20 th JAN SUN	10.30 <u>or</u> 11.30	Goole Leisure Centre car park <u>or</u> Alkborough Julian's Bower Maze SE 880 218	Alkborough circular , 6 miles with pub lunch stop	Ken Boothman
10 th FEB SUN	10.15 <u>or</u> 10.45	Howden Hailgate car park <u>or</u> Selby Bus Station SE 617 323	Selby Horseshoe , pub lunch stop Joint walk with York P T Group 9 miles	Malcolm Dixon
24 th FEB SUN	10.00 <u>or</u> 10.30	Goole Leisure Centre car park <u>or</u> Drax Church SE 676 263	Drax Circular 8 miles	D & B Kelly
2 nd MARCH SUN	1.00 <u>or</u> 1:30 pm	Howden Hailgate car park <u>or</u> Towthorpe Corner CP A614, SE 878 439	Londesborough Estate circular, bring map and compass for optional map reading practice. 6 miles,	Ken Boothman
15 th MARCH SUN	1.30 pm	Howden Hailgate car park	Howden circular along banks of River Ouse 6 miles	Marian Thomas
6 th APRIL SUN	10:15 <u>or</u> 11:00	Howden Hailgate car park <u>or</u> Millington Church SE 829 519	Millington to Deep Dale circular 7 miles	D & B Kelly
19 th APRIL SAT	10:00 <u>or</u> 10:30	Howden Hailgate car park <u>or</u> North Newbald Green SE 912 368	North Newbald circular 7 miles	Marian Thomas

Where the meeting place is Goole Leisure Centre Car Park or Howden Hailgate Car Park, car sharing will be arranged to the start of the walk. For further information contact: Ken Boothman tel: **01405 769156** or Marian Thomas tel: **01430 431766** mobile **0790 403 1193** or e-mail thomas.marian@btinternet.com or visit www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk



You're in the army now!



A route march rather than a ramble. At least, that's what some of you seem to think of our walks. Roy Hunt's letter in our September edition about walking etiquette evoked quite a response as he tells us here:

This matter is being discussed by your Area committee but in the meantime, here are a few suggestions from some of our most experienced walk leaders which may prove helpful:

Dear Editor

The vast majority of walks go well and without a hitch, however, the biggest single concern that has been voiced to me is on the subject of a very small number of walk leaders who seem to treat the walk like a route march, and those who want the walk to go at their fast pace rather than a pace that is more acceptable to everyone else. The second most prevalent concern relates to "dawdlers" who choose to walk well off the back of the main group by choice. Here is a selection of some of the comments:

Why do we need a set of rules to tell us how to do things?

We stopped at a lovely spot but not for very long. A number of us, including the leader, were still enjoying our lunch when a few folk got up, put on their rucksacks and set off.

Is the main objective to try and keep up with the leader or to enjoy a walk in the countryside with friends?

Storming off at a fast pace and again as the last person catches up makes a good walk unenjoyable.

We know we will never be able to please all of the people all of the time. Most of our walks are very well attended, and people come back year after year, but there is obviously an issue here.

Yours faithfully

Roy Hunt

LEADERS

Have the latest laminated walk leader card handy especially when addressing the group at the start of a walk.

Introduce your backmarker to the group and keep in regular contact with him/her during the walk.

Pause about 20 yards beyond a stile to make sure all walkers are safely over.

BACKMARKERS

If a group gets strung out, consider using a whistle to alert the leader.

Ensure the tail end of the party gets enough time to rest after catching up.

WALKERS

Tell the backmarker if you are finding the pace uncomfortable.

Remember, not everyone may be as fit as you are, so be patient. Some members can get out walking two or three times a week, others may be less fit. We were all beginners once!

EVERYONE

As a rule of thumb, divide the miles by two to work out when the walk will finish. This allows for a comfortable pace of around 2.5 mph plus stops. In other words, allow up to 3 hours for a six-mile walk and 5 hours for 10 miles. Don't count on being back any sooner.

NEW MEMBERS

Please try more than one walk. We have a great choice of groups and distances. Talk to other members or your group secretary to help find the walks which are right for you.

HAPPY WALKING!

EDITORS

Alan Iveson

Eight Driffeld Group RA members and Peter Ayling, representing the Area Council, were amongst a large congregation who attended Alan Iveson's funeral on 4th September. Alan will be remembered with affection by many of our members.

He was born in Kilham, and his early career was in the army as a bandman with the East Yorkshire Regiment. He played at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth on 2 June 1953. He served in Malaya, Burma and Aden.

After leaving the army he worked in the wholesale grocery business as a commercial traveller. He kept up his love of music and also delighted in his beautiful garden.

He held the post of EYDA Area Treasurer from 1988 to 1993. His quiet and unassuming manner hid an ability and competence gained throughout his working life.

From 1992 to 1999, Alan was the third Chairman of the Drif-

field Group of the Ramblers' Association following in the footsteps of Yvonne Nadin and Oliver Sedman. The last walk he led for the Driffeld Group was from Hawnby, one of his favourite places on the North York Moors.

He also served on the Hull & East Riding Footpath Sub-committee. This involved frequent visits to County Archives and the use of other sources to substantiate claimed Rights of Way.

He worked on the Open Access sub-committee. This involved going on field searches in the Yorkshire Wolds with other Driffeld Group members to identify native flora as evidence of unimproved grazing land.

Alan was held in high regard and respected by all who knew him. We extend our deepest sympathies to his wife Annie and his family. We hope Annie will continue to join us on future rambles.

John Jefferson
Driffeld Group Secretary

GYBO Young People's Group

The 2008 calendar includes the Millennium Way - a 23 mile circular walk around York - accessible for families and those without cars. The next leg is on 20 January. The Centenary Way, the group's long distance project, kicks off with a 12 mile linear walk from York Minster to Sheriff Hutton on March 15. Paul Rhodes

News from our Groups

Ryedale Group

At the AGM, we said goodbye to our Chair, Mike McGrory, also committee members Anelay Hart and Franklin Farrar. We thank them sincerely for their contribution over the years. In their place, we welcomed Sam Borman as our new Chair, and Pat and George Donnor to the committee.

Many of you may know of the very serious injuries suffered by our friend Tom Jackson when he was hit by a van whilst out walking. By the time you read this, we hope he is well on the mend.

He was airlifted to hospital by the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. As ram-

blers, we should be particularly aware of the wonderful service it provides. We raised a total of £205 for this very worthy cause, and thank all those who contributed to it.

Mike McGrory

Group Chair

Drifffield Group

Members of the group have produced a set of six leaflets of walks around Drifffield. Cost £3 to include weather-proof plastic folder and postage. Cheques payable to Drifffield Ramblers' Association to the Group Secretary:

John Jefferson
2 Spellowgate
Drifffield

YO25 7BB

Tel: **01377252412**

Beverley Group AGM

Peter Ayling hands over a presentation from the group to retiring chairman, Dennis Parker, in recognition of his many years of service.



Brian and Celia Jones have also stepped down from the Beverley Committee having led many walks for the group over the years. Gerry Wallace takes over as Group Chairman and Susan Kay will be our Social Secretary. Trish Jennings also joins the committee for the first time, and we were pleased to welcome back Shirley Dalby.

Refreshing Changes

Nafferton

There is now a small shop on Nethergate adjacent to the railway crossing on the east of the village serving tea and coffee which may be of interest to walkers

Opening Hours

Weds to Sat 10.00 - 1600
Sunday 1200 - 1600
closed Monday and Tuesday.
Telephone "Nether Lane Country"
01377 241711

FOLLY LAKE CAFÉ

Risby Park Fishing Lakes

Conveniently situated close to rights of way between Walkington and Skidby. The fisherman's café has indoor and outdoor tables (but do not consume own food) on a pleasant deck terrace overlooking the lake.

Walkers, bird-watchers etc are welcome to park here if planning to use the café (except on match days).

For opening times contact
Anthony Clappison 07860 255891
Match Hotline 01482 862049

SET OF WALKS FROM SKIDBY
Available from Skidby P.O. £2

LEMPICKA CONTINENTAL CAFÉ

at Skidby Mill

Open Tuesday to Sunday,
9am - 5pm for tea, coffee, cakes
scones etc. Soup, salads, light
meals served 12-3 pm.

The Daffy Caffy

in Farndale will re-open on Friday, 1st
February.

Opening Times

February and
May to September
Friday-Sun incl. 9.00 - 5.00
Open every day in March and April

Enquiries:
01751 430363

Londesborough Snowdrop Weekends

**Feb 10th and Feb 17th
11am - 5pm**

The park and the church will be
open and refreshments will be
available in the
Londesborough Reading Room

Tel:
01430 879530



Hull & Holderness Group

A meeting will take place on
Monday 18th February 2008
commencing at 7pm.
In the Friends' Meeting
House
Bean Street, Anlaby Road,
HULL HU3 2PR

to discuss the Summer
Evening Walks Programme
All welcome

Hovingham Walks Leaflet

Available from the Hovingham village
shop, bakery and pubs.

????????????Griddles ??????????

These clues should lead you to some popular places for walks in our area. The grid references below will help, but are NOT in the correct order.

1. Who lead Dora astray north west of Scarborough? (7,4)
2. Horsemen are cavorting round Yorkshire's largest lake. (7,4)
3. An Othello look-alike follows Gill north of Kirkbymoorside. (9)
4. Take axe to alleged monster's home in beauty spot west of Scarborough. (8)
5. Peach got bashed north of Rievaulx (8)

SE 903 685 SE 967 900
SE 559 994
TA 197 474 SE 973 975



Our inspirational guidance counsellor, Rambling Rose, returns with more words of wisdom...

Dear Rambling Rose,

My long-term partner joined the Ramblers about a year ago. In that time he has gone from walking once a week to walking three, four or even five times a week. Now he is talking of going on walking holidays without me. (He says I would be bored.) He has also smartened himself up a great deal and cast off the Worzel Gummidge image that served him for a lifetime. At first I welcomed his new interest and appearance but now I am beginning to wonder if there might be more to this than meets the eye. Am I being paranoid, Rambling Rose, or do you think my fears might have some foundation?

MPG, Scarborough.

This is a tricky one, MPG. People do sometimes catch the walking bug and want to be out on the trail as much as possible. However, in my experience this is rarely accompanied by a major smartening-up process. If anything the opposite happens. Boot cleaning tends to become more perfunctory and walking clothes are given that extra outing before they finally reach the washing machine. So your fears might just have some foundation. Why not wait until your partner is at his most dapper and ready to leave for a walk and then offer to accompany him? If he turns you down on the grounds that you don't have any sandwiches or he thought you were going to deadhead the roses or watch Countdown (or some such reason), I should be suspicious.

Dear Rambling Rose,

I joined the RA recently and overall it has been an extremely pleasant experience. My only problem has been with a rather uncouth bloke who keeps asking me out and talking in a suggestive way about 'being given the right to roam'. How do I put an end to this kind of embarrassing nonsense?

SNP, Driffeld.

I sympathise, SNP. Tell him firmly that trespassers will be prosecuted or, if you are really angry, persecuted.

Dear Rambling Rose,

I'm becoming increasingly concerned about my husband. He's always been a keen walker but recently has become something of a footpath anorak. Much of his conversation at home is about footpaths and when we are out walking I hear him talking endlessly about rights of way, access, way-markers, reporting etc etc. Even in his sleep he sometimes mumbles about 'the footpath network'. I've grown so sick of it I recently told him I did not give a fig for the difference between rights of way and permissive paths. He's not a young man, Rambling Rose, do you think he might eventually grow out of this?

DUP, Goole

Dear DUP, *Footpathitis Vulgaris* is a not uncommon complaint which, though rarely fatal, has no known cure. I am afraid you will just have to be patient, though I realise this is not always easy. After all he sounds like a pretty harmless sort of guy. I suppose you could thank your lucky stars his obsession isn't lap dancing or bog snorkelling?

Enjoy your walking

RAMBLING ROSE

Scarborough Group



Members of Scarborough Group negotiate the Severn stepping stones, 11.11.07 Photo courtesy of Phil Trafford



Find a Spring Wildflower Walk
on the WALKS page of our website,
www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk



Contributions to Area News should be sent to either: Dany Wlodarczyk at 49 Pasture Terrace, Beverley, HU17 8DR, or to Paul Rhodes, 23 Ash Street, York, YO26 4UR

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The deadline for the next issue is: **Feb 15th 2008**

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