



A Happy New Year to All Our Readers



Looking back

Together with this issue of Area News you will have received the Annual Report summarising the activities of all our groups during the past year. Our Chairman, Peter Leese, emphasises the debt of gratitude we owe to our volunteers, in particular our walks leaders, who have offered us both an impressive number of walks and an ever-increasing variety, including public transport walks, themed walks, summer evening walks, longer-distance walks and walking holidays.

Footpath workers

Many of the routes we take for granted nowadays are only pleasant to walk due to the unstinting efforts of our footpath workers, both past and present. Not so very long ago many paths which are well-used today were still overgrown, ploughed out or obstructed. Some problems take literally decades to resolve, West Beck Bridge near Driffild being a prime example as you will see on Page 2.

Help required

To safeguard many routes we know and love today for future generations, Mike Jackson appeals for your help. Countless paths and tracks we use today, both rural and urban, are not yet recorded as rights of way. Everyone can help with this mammoth task by identifying the paths at risk in their own locality. See Page 6 to find out how.

Walks booklet

Your group and area committees are currently considering whether our annual walks programme booklet could be improved. Please let committee members know which extra details about the walk might be useful and whether or not you would prefer a larger format.

Walking with children

A date for your 2009 diary - on Saturday 30th May we plan to offer some family-friendly walks for the RA's "Get Walking Day". If you have ideas for a suitable route, please contact your group secretary or rambles secretary.



*Pocklington Group Walk from Bishop Wilton, Wednesday, 10th December, 2008
Photo courtesy of Brian O'Grady*



*Members of Scarborough Group, Raincliffe Woods, 23.11.08
Photo courtesy of Phil Trafford*

West Beck Bridge

**Join us for a celebratory walk
at Brigham on
Monday May 4th 2009 at 1 pm
to mark
the re-opening of the bridge.
Full story overleaf**

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Pocklington Group Holiday in Crete

In September, fifteen of the more intrepid members of Pocklington Group ignored the adage, 'Never go on holiday with friends' and travelled with Ramblers' Holidays to the



hills and gorges of Crete. According to one member of the group, "Ramblers" has now been added to the Greek language to describe groups of mature citizens in heavy boots tramping through hills and villages in the midday sun, disturbing afternoon siestas and setting off barking dogs. People even dragged their children on to balconies and doorsteps to gaze in awe at the passing "Ramblers!"

Peter Reid looks back on the holiday:

With the help of Jim Tulloch as leader, Pocklington group enjoyed two weeks of excellent walking and some hilarious times in a two-centre holiday in Crete.

After a few years of regular walking together we already knew each other's strengths and weakness, so we settled rapidly into the usual banter and flak which comes with familiarity.

We set off either straight from the hotel or used public transport to get to more remote areas. It was my first time in Greece and I was impressed by the mountainous landscapes which I hadn't expected, sea-scapes, flora, birds etc.

Away from the main towns the people were very friendly and generous. We were regularly offered bunches of grapes and invited, all too often, to take a glass

of raki with people as we passed by their houses. We never ventured far into the mountainous interior but I think that for the majority of us we were often at our limits as far as terrain and temperature were concerned.

For the most part, the weather was very good, but towards the end of the holiday we had to abandon one of our hikes because of a torrential downpour. Fortunately we were in a taverna when the rain became lethal, so we called for taxis to get us back to our hotel.

The walks involved easy strolls through agricultural areas of grapes and olives, and some demanding walks through gorges with woodland and scrub. Vultures were often seen keeping an opportunistic eye on us as they drifted along above the high cliffs.

The rugged coastline offered an extra dimension to some of our walks and also gave us the chance to take a dip in the Med. An excursion by ferry took some of us to a delightful shallow lagoon in Balos Bay. We found all too late that it wasn't so shallow, and to get back to the ferry we were obliged to strip off to essentials and carry our kit above our heads through shoulder-deep water. Shades of Armand and Michaela Denis.

Thanks very much from all of us to Jim Tulloch for leading us - or as they say in Greek,

Εύχαριστώ πολύ!

Peter Reid



Photos courtesy of Peter Reid

The editors feel the photo above calls for a caption competition. Please send in entries for our April edition.

A Bridge Too Late...

From the 1970s onwards, the RA campaigned to get the swing bridge over West Beck near Low Emmotland (TA 082 518) replaced after it rotted and was removed. Eventually, in 1996, Humberside County Council constructed a fine new footbridge (pictured top left) at a cost of over £30,000. Celebrations were in order and duly took place (see picture bottom left). End of story, you may well think. Sadly, not!

Not only ... but also!

Not only had the new bridge been built in the wrong place so that it no longer connected up two rights of way; it was also a health and safety hazard - the steps descended directly on to the muddy river bank and anyone using it was at risk of slipping into the water!

The bridge was consequently cordoned off by the (then) new East Riding of Yorkshire Council which had inherited the problems associated with it.

It has taken only another twelve years of perseverance by Mike Jackson and the footpath team to resolve the situation. The bridge (now with safer steps) was eventually re-opened in October 2008! Mike invites you to join him for the (final?) West Beck celebratory walk from Brigham on Monday, May 4th

The Original Walking Company

RAMBLERS HOLIDAYS

have now been organising walking holidays for 60 years, so it's not surprising that people go with them year after year.

Tel: **01707 331133**

www.ramblersholidays.co.uk



From left, Angela Parker, Evelyn Gadsden, Chris Spencer, Yvonne Nadin, Mike Jackson. Photos by Dennis Parker

The Origins of Rambling Clubs and Holidays

Area President Ann Holt traces the roots of the Ramblers' Association back to the Victorian era and introduces us to one of the great pioneers of the outdoor movement.

Thomas Arthur Leonard must have been an impressive figure in late Victorian Colne, a Lancashire mill town. He was a Congregational clergyman and dedicated propagandist for the improving qualities of simple living and healthy outdoor exercise. The late Victorian period saw a flowering of rambling clubs, many of them attached to churches.

Walking was seen as good for physical and mental health, just as it is today, but Victorian clergymen believed in leading their flocks toward recreations which did them good socially and intellectually as well, 'improving' leisure activities in the vocabulary of the time. A lot of this came down to keeping them out of the pubs and away from political agitators, but that was not the whole story.



The Rev. T. Arthur Leonard (centre) with other members of the conference which set up the National Council of Ramblers' Federations in 1931 at Longshaw in the Peak District
Photo courtesy of the RA.

Early Walking Holidays

Leonard was certainly one who believed leisure was about fun and good fellowship, even though his

approach to both was, by modern standards, strenuous and Spartan. He observed his church's rambling club giving 'birth to a desire for better things' than the 'vitiated conceptions of life and conduct' to be found in Blackpool and Morecambe, so in June 1891 he led a walking holiday in the Lake District for thirty young men from his congregation. After that modest beginning he put his considerable energy and creativity into two holiday organisations, the CHA (Co-operative Holiday Association) and HF (Holiday Fellowship), which brought walking holidays within the reach of many who would not have believed they could afford or organise one for themselves.

One Hundred Years of Rambling

Many of those who went on the early holidays enjoyed themselves so much that memories were not enough. They wanted to keep something of the experience going in their non-holiday lives, and CHA and HF rambling clubs appeared on the walking scene, the first in 1901 in London. By the early 1930s there were 76 CHA and 79 HF clubs, 13 of the latter being joint CHA & HF. One of them was founded in York in 1908 and has just celebrated its centenary with the publication of *One Hundred Years of Rambling, 1908-2008*.

The book is a valuable addition to the history of walking because it brings us a taste of the experience of ordinary walkers in the past. This is something you don't really find in minutes of meetings, books by professional walker/writers, debates in parliament and learned papers. Drawing on archive material, press cuttings and, most valuably to my



Cover of a 1936 edition
Reproduced courtesy of the RA

mind, memories of its members, it includes a mass of wonderfully evocative photographs of rambles long and not so long ago.

The RA Connection

Why should members of the RA be interested? Well, the RA came about through a process of federation of individual rambling clubs, initially in large towns and cities, then, from the early 1930s, nationally. Leading lights in the walking movements, T. A. Leonard amongst them, saw the need for a level of organisation which could lobby national government about matters beyond the reach of the local federations, including legislation on rights of way, access to open country and the protection of beautiful countryside. Clubs like the York CHA and HF were the cells which came together to form the new body while continuing their own independent life.

Ann Holt

One Hundred Years of Rambling

The book costs £7 and is available from York CHA and HF Rambling Club.
Email yorkrambling@yahoo.co.uk for further details

WALKING FACT

Fit walkers are less likely to fall and suffer injuries such as hip fractures because the bones are strengthened; less likely to sustain injury because joints have a better range of movement and muscles are more flexible; less prone to depression and anxiety; tend to be good sleepers; and are better able to control body weight.

The Ramblers' Association is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales.
Company registration number: 4458492. Registered Charity in England and Wales number: 1093577.
Registered office: 2nd floor, Camelford House, 87-90 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TW

EXTRA WINTER and SPRING WALKS 2008-9

The information below supplements that which you will find in our 2008 - 2009 programme booklet. Details of all walks including links to maps showing the starting point are also available at www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk

Date	Day	Time	Group	Leader	Miles	Grid	Ref.	Place / details	Notes
Jan 8 th	Thurs	10.00	S	M. Ingham	6	SE	696 867	Kirby Moorside Mini-Roundabout	? BM
Jan 14 th	Weds	10.30	YA	Ken Walker	8	SE	692 552	Gate Helmsley, Village Hall Car Park	PT
Jan 15 th	Thurs	10.00	S	M. Ingham	6	SE	847 899	Lockton Cemetery	? BM
Jan 21 st	Weds	10.30	YA	John Whipp	8	SE	649 662	Sheriff Hutton, Village Hall Car Park	
Jan 28 th	Weds	10.30	YA	G and A Walsh	8	SE	793 713	Norton, Main Car Park	PT
Jan 29 th	Thurs	10.00	S	M. Ingham	6	SE	718 681	Welburn (Crown and Cushion)	? BM
Feb 4 th	Weds	10.30	YA	Chris Bush	8	SE	834 567	Wayhram Dale Car Park	
Feb 11 th	Weds	10.30	YA	Angela Timbers	8	SE	405 480	Wetherby Riverside Car Park	PT
Feb 12 th	Thurs	10.00	S	M. Ingham	6	SE	879 905	Staindale Lake (P. Con.)	? BM
Feb 18 th	Weds	10.30	YA	Sandra Hutton	8	SE	597 497	Knavesmire	
Feb 25 th	Weds	10.30	YA	John Powell	8	SE	931 693	West Lutton Church	
Feb 26 th	Thurs	10.00	S	M. Ingham	6	TA	012 941	Cloughton Stn	? BM
Mar 4 th	Weds	10.30	YA	Ian Turner	8	SE	664 791	Nunnington	
Mar 11 th	Weds	10.30	YA	John Wood	8	SE	474 523	Tockwith, Kendal Lane	PT
Mar 12 th	Thurs	10.00	S	M. Ingham	6	SE	724 955	Rosedale, White Horse Pub	? BM
Mar 18 th	Weds	10.30	YA	Doreen Felton	8	SE	397 372	Barwick in Elmet, Carrfield Rd	
Mar 25 th	Weds	10.30	YA	Malcolm Dixon	8	SE	673 702	Terrington Village Hall Car Park	
Mar 26 th	Thurs	10.00	S	M. Ingham	6	SE	939 899	Wykeham Forest North edge (nr. Hackness)	? BM
Apr 1 st	Weds	10.30	YA	J. van der Burg	8	SE	468 993	Cod Beck Reservoir (1½ Miles North of Os-motherley) Reservoir Car Park	
Apr 8 th	Weds	10.30	YA	Jackie Glew	8	SE	154 574	Thruscross, Reservoir Car Park	
Apr 9 th	Thurs	10.00	S	M. Ingham	6	SE	673 953	Low Mill Farndale	? BM
Apr 15 th	Weds	10.30	YA	Roz Thompson	8	SE	511 601	Newton-on-Ouse Church	
Apr 22 nd	Weds	10.30	YA	Clive Nicholls	8	SE	730 624	Howsham Bridge	
Apr 23 rd	Thurs	10.00	S	M. Ingham	6	TA	805 054	Egton Bridge Station	? BM

NOTES, ABBREVIATIONS and GROUP CONTACTS

S	SCARBOROUGH THURSDAY MORNING WALKS Contact Margaret Ingham, Tel: 01723 377222 for further details.
B M	Leader has indicated that bar meals will be available after the walk.
?	In severe weather conditions, the leader may not be able to reach the start point. Telephone Margaret Ingham, details above, to confirm that the walk will take place.
YA	YORK GROUP WEDNESDAY AMBLES: Contact Jackie Glew Tel: 01423 869489 Mobile: 07858 145079 Email: glewj@ntlworld.com Margaret Green Tel: 01423 330242 Mobile: 07710 850790 Email: margaret@telgen.co.uk
PT	It may be possible to join some of the York Ambles using public transport. Please check current timetables and inform one of the contacts above so that the group can wait for the bus if necessary.

Ryedale Group

Tom Jackson continues to make good progress after his accident last year and wishes to thank everyone for their support.

The Daffy Caffy

in Farndale will re-open in February
opening 9.00 - 5.00 Fri, Sat, Sun
Open every day in March and April
Open May to September Fri, Sat, Sun

Enquiries:

01751 430363

Beverley Group

Members and friends were delighted that John Mills was able to join them at their Christmas lunch. He tells us he is now walking up to 4.7 miles (on roads) after his operation.

More Extra Walks

can be found on our web-site, including the fortnightly **Pocklington Group longer-distance walks** of around 17 miles which are listed on the Pocklington group page. For more information contact
Jack Hutchinson, Tel: **01759 303461**
or Email: jack.hutchinson1@which.net

Howden and Goole Group

Extra information about meeting points for car-sharing for the group's walks can be found on the Howden and Goole group's page of www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk

Beverley Group Coach Ramble to Derbyshire



Sunday, May 10th 2009
8 mile walk

or visit Chatsworth House

Pick up points: Beverley and Howden
Coach £15 - All welcome

Advance bookings:

Jean Cavill (01482 888096)

Gerry Wallace (01482 867195)

cc outdoors, Beverley

(Country Concept) is offering 10% discount on production of a valid RA membership card. (Does **not** include sale products, maps, books, guides or CDs)



Helicopter Heroes

If any of our long-standing members were watching the BBC programme **HELICOPTER HEROES** last month, they may have spotted some old friends...

In October 2007, the Howden & Goole Group were enjoying a rather muddy circular walk from Millington to Bishop Wilton, when we came across an older couple walking in the opposite direction.

We greeted them in passing and told them who we were; the lady said she was a native of Goole. Two hours later, after a pleasant lunch stop in Bishop Wilton, the group climbed the steep hill above the village and we again met the couple at the top of the hill on their way down.

Unfortunately within seconds of us passing them, the lady fell awkwardly on the muddy slope and realised that she had broken her ankle. Of course we stopped to help, someone phoned for an ambulance and we made sure the lady was warm and as comfortable as possible on the steep hill side.

Once we knew help was on the way, there seemed little point in the whole group remaining, so one of our members, Tim Almond, volunteered to stay behind whilst we carried on with the walk.

Tim walked back to Bishop Wilton to help the ambulance paramedics to the scene. Unfortunately the hill was too steep for

them to safely stretch the lady and the Yorkshire Air Ambulance was called in.

We could see the helicopter circling round looking for a flat place to land. Eventually the lady was safely airlifted from the hill side to a nearby cricket pitch in Bishop Wilton, where the ambulance was waiting; a BBC cameraman was on board the helicopter and filmed the whole proceedings.

The lady received treatment at York Hospital for a broken ankle (and has since made a complete recovery). Our volunteer, Tim, managed to get a lift back to Millington and met us at the end of the walk.

The BBC programme "Helicopter Heroes" showing the rescue was broadcast last month. The husband kindly sent us a donation of £30 for our funds, however we decided to pass this on to the Air Ambulance charity.

In his letter of thanks, the husband told us his name was Glen Hood. We discovered that he is the Life President of the East Yorkshire Long Distance Walking Association and deviser of the East Riding Heritage Way (85 miles), which comprises the Beverley 20, Hutton Hike (23 miles) Rudston Roam (21 miles) and the Bridlington to Filey Headland walk!

Marian Thomas

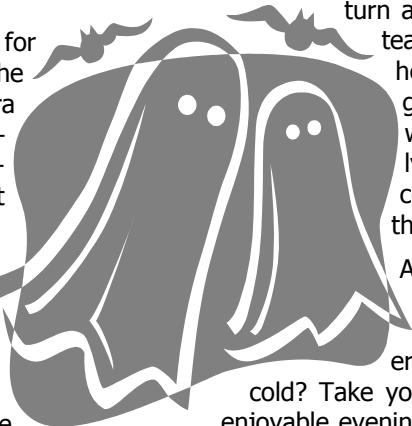
Some of our readers will indeed remember Glen Hood leading walks for us in days gone by when he was an active local member of the EYDA RA.

A Walk on the Weird Side

Early September, the nights drawing in, how about something a little different? What about a Ghost Walk?

Forty of us turned out for the scary climax to the Beverley Group's Extra Summer Walks programme and a fascinating evening it proved to be.

We progressed from North Bar Within to the Minster to tales of sightings and apparitions told to us by Paul Schofield, our affable and knowledgeable guide.



Stories of unrequited love and violence in the grounds of County Hall (there's a novelty); a ghostly presence to which one of the town's opticians could not turn a blind eye; the Yoga teacher who conducted her class under the gaze of a watching wraith (male naturally) and numerous accounts of Friars and their spectral activities.

As the evening wore on we seemed to huddle closer together. Apprehension or cold? Take your pick but a hugely enjoyable evening. Thank you to Susan Kay for organising it.

Gerry Wallace

HI-VIS VESTS

If you had any doubts about the effectiveness of these, the photo below should dispel them! Dennis Muir presented a vest to Julia Wakefield, winner of the indoor bowls competition on the Derwent Bank holiday in November. She is seen here wearing it, not much else is visible in the dim light!

York Group have ordered in bulk and have some spares for sale at £2 each.

Contact Vera Silberberg
41 North Parade, York, YO 30 7AB
Tel: **01904 628134**
Email: vera@silberberg.org.uk



Photo courtesy of Ann Laing

York Group Working Party

Members of the York Group footpath working party completed their biggest project to date when they helped to replace this broken bridge near Slingsby with the splendid new one pictured below.

You can read a full account of the group's activities in the past year in the Annual Report which accompanies this issue.



Photos courtesy of Alan Clark

Walking with Children

We have recently had a number of enquiries from RA members and potential members who would like to go on walks with their children. Children are certainly welcome on our walks if the distance is within their capabilities, but must of course be accompanied by a parent or carer if they are under fourteen.

It may be more enjoyable for families with children to take part in walks where there are likely to be other children present. Our area committee will be encouraging group rambles secretaries to

- Give them a small rucksack or pack to carry.
- Choose routes with plenty of interest along the way. Children generally like clambering over things, jumping over streams and climbing stiles! They enjoy looking for particular animals, birds or trees. They like collecting things. They are generally bored by flat, straight, paths and lengthy field edges. They prefer farm buildings, vehicles, railway or water features.
- Show them where you are on a map if you have one.



- Let them bring a friend or join forces with another family.

- Don't force them to walk if they really don't want to - you might put them off walking for good. Enthusiastic junior walkers may lose all interest in walking as teenagers: the chances are they will take it up again in later life.

- For more ideas, visit www.ramblers.org.uk

bear this in mind and perhaps include some family-friendly rambles when planning any extra walks for 2009. The RA's "Get Walking Day" on Saturday May 30th would be an ideal opportunity to encourage people to bring their children or grandchildren along.

Families taking children on a walk may find the following tips from the RA be useful:

- Don't make the walk too long or too hard. Stay patient and be prepared to go at a child's pace, stopping to look at things along the way.
- Children sometimes have boundless energy one minute and become tired the next. Be prepared to cut the walk short and congratulate them on any special efforts or achievements.
- Make sure they are protected against sun and rain. Carry extra layers. Take a change in case they get wet, and lotion for bites and stings.

Walkers have been challenged

by a farmer near Mill Farm between Pocklington and Millington, SE 815514 for straying from rights of way. Please note that there is NO r.o.w shown on the map between the footbridge and the stile SW of the farm.

which has a link to guided family-friendly walks on the Walksfinder. It also provides a list of books of walks written for families, e.g. the Jarrold series *Short Walks for All the Family*: 20 well-illustrated walks in each volume with OS mapping, questions and quizzes. Not much in our area, so there's an opportunity for someone with initiative!



Open Access Walks Booklet

A booklet of ten walks which take in some of the open access areas of the East Riding is now available FREE from tourist offices. The attractive 28-page A5 booklet describes walks ranging from two and a half to ten miles, accompanied by maps and colour photographs of some of the flora and fauna to be found in the relevant access sites.

Starting points include North Newbald, Warter, Huggate, Bishop Wilton and the Wayrham Dale picnic site. Just one slight criticism - the very small print on some of the OS maps which have been shrunk to fit the pages.

The booklet was produced with the help of local RA members.

Your Ramblers' Association Needs You

Our Area Footpath Secretary for the East Riding and the City of Hull appeals for your help:

On 1st January 2026 the East Riding will lose about 20% of its rights of way. This may not affect you, but it will affect our grandchildren.

So far we have identified 350 Public Rights of Way (Prow) which we hope to protect. These include all the snickets in the county, like the one you use to get to the shops, school or bus stop. To safeguard these we need to record them all on the Definitive Map, or at least start the process of claiming them.

You can help in two ways.

- 1 Survey your location
- 2 Put up notices locally, making sure they remain up for four weeks

The more people who are involved in identifying and claiming these rights of way, the more chance there is of saving them. The task is far too great for one person or even a small group, however dedicated. If you would like to help, please contact me,

Mike Jackson, 40 Copandale Road, Beverley, HU17 7BW
Tel: **01482 861649**

Definitive Map

The East Riding have moved the copy of the definitive map to the Treasure House, Beverley which gives the public better access to the document. It also includes up-to-date alterations.

Access Walks in N. Yorkshire

Access Officer Tom Halstead informs us that North Yorkshire County Council in collaboration with volunteers from our Area is producing a booklet, similar to the one recently published by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council. It will describe 10 walks in North Yorkshire outside the National Parks. The provisional publication date is May 2009. Volunteers are currently involved in surveying walks for possible inclusion.

Anyone who would like to get involved in footpath and access campaigns including people who would like to do desk-based work, such as computer work, e.g. making information about footpaths available online, please contact Tom: Tel: **01904 448380** or email tkh1@york.ac.uk

MEET YOUR VOLUNTEERS



Photo courtesy of Ray Wallis

Ray Wallis, pictured left, is a long-serving member of our Area Council and Chairman of the RA footpath sub-committee for the East Riding.

Ray has made his mark by devising not one but TWO very popular routes in our area, the 50 mile Minster Way which links Beverley and York and also the Chalkland Way, a 40 mile circular route in the heart of the Wolds.

You will also spot Ray's name in our walks programme as the organiser of regular three-day camping trips, usually to the Lake District or the Yorkshire Dales. These take place three times a year and all members and friends are welcome to take part.

appalling weather. Ray goes on to explain:

'My hope then was that the Minster Way would help to improve rights of way by encouraging greater use, and this has proved to be the case over the years. The route is now fully signposted and pleasant to walk. The improvement has been achieved not only by increased use, but also by co-operation between the former Humberside and the present East Riding and North Yorkshire Councils and our Ramblers' Association Area.'

The Chalkland Way

After the successful opening of the Minster Way in 1980, Ray went on to devise this delightful circular route in the Wolds north of Pocklington which opened in 1994. It resulted in increased use of some paths which had been regularly ploughed out for years but which we now take for granted. This time it took only a couple of months to survey the route, and a few days to produce the first leaflet on a Xerox copier, so it was much easier and quicker than the Minster Way. Ray was helped with the survey by the late Norman Trezise, who designed and drew the maps. Asked whether he has any more routes in mind, Ray replies 'I shall leave that to the enthusiasm and imagination of other, hopefully younger, R.A. members.'

Beverley RA Group plans to walk the Chalkland Way in the autumn of this 15th anniversary year, details in next Area News.

The new Chalkland Way leaflet is available free from Ray Wallis, 75 Ancaster Avenue, Hull, East Yorkshire, HU5 4QR. A stamped, addressed (preferably size A5) envelope MUST be included.

Ray explains how the Minster Way came to be created:

'I set about the task of creating a fifty-mile walking route between the Minsters of Beverley and York in the late 1970s. The Wolds Way had been planned for many years, but had not yet come to fruition, and I decided it was time for East Yorkshire to have a Long Distance Path of its own.'

'I spent many hours in the Hull Local History Library and in discussion with fellow RA members identifying the existing public rights of way which would eventually be joined together to form the Way. The proposed route turned out to be much more difficult to traverse

than anticipated, parts of it being overgrown, un-signposted, and having a surfeit of barbed wire and a lack of stiles.'

Two years of work

Ray almost gave up but, being of a stubborn nature, he stuck to the task. Two years later and after many letters to and consultations with the Highways Authorities, the route was ready for use, and the guidebook Ray had written was on sale in local bookshops. In order to publicise the book and the walk, four local ramblers offered to walk the whole of the fifty miles in a singleday, and on June 14th, 1980 three of them, Glen Hood, Roy Hughes and Alan Killick, accomplished this arduous feat in truly

Londesborough Snowdrop Weekends Two Sundays in February 11am - 5pm

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



Tel: **01430
879530**



Millers Tea Room

The tea room has not closed but has moved to Raywell, situated in the first of the lodges behind Raywell Hall. Open every day. **Tel: 01482 631702**



Wedding Bells



*Nancy Sydenham and Paul Rhodes
in York on October 12th 2008*



*Carole Minns and Mike Jackson
at Tickton, on December 6th 2008*



Rambling Rose - Your Caring Friend in a Crisis

Dear Rambling Rose,

My wife and I are both walkers but we don't always walk together. Sometimes she likes to go off for the day with her lady friends. The only constant is that I always clean the footwear.

Recently, after she had been out walking with the 'girls', I was getting her boots from the car when I noticed a plastic bag containing another pair of boots. Out of curiosity, I had a look and discovered that they were a recently-used pair of size 14 Brashers and lying beside them was a large baseball cap.

Perhaps there are lady ramblers who wear size 14's and mega baseball caps? I don't know. I am loathe to ask my wife about the matter because

a) I don't want to be sexist about size and

b) sometimes her replies can be a little explosive.

What do you think, Rambling Rose?

GDR, Bridlington.

Well, GDR, I think your patience and desire to avoid stereotyping are commendable - although I must confess I have rarely met female ramblers (or, indeed, many others) with these dimensions.

Eventually, as I am sure you must realize, you will have to brave your wife's temper. Of course, there may be a perfectly innocent explanation but in the meantime, if I were you, I would not bother cleaning the mystery boots.

Dear Rambling Rose,

There has been a great deal of talk in the media recently about performance-enhancing drugs in sport. A friend tells me that there is a rumour that on health and safety grounds the R.A. is about to introduce a nationwide programme

of random drugs testing and out-of-season screening. He says that lunch breaks and coffee stops will be prime targets for the testers.

Have you any information about this Rambling Rose and what is your attitude? It sounds like a violation of our Human Rights to me.

WLP, Pocklington.

Dear WLP,

Thank you very much for your letter which raises a number of vitally important issues for walkers. As is the way with these things, one only hears dark, unsubstantiated rumours about the use of performance-enhancing drugs. However, in my view, positive action by the Ramblers' Association is long overdue. I suspect that the use of Glucosamine Sulphate, Ibuprofen, Chondroitin and Oil of Wintergreen (especially the extra-strong North African varieties) is now widespread. It's sad that we need to resort to fines, bans and ostracism but, nevertheless, I believe these are necessary steps in the right direction.

Dear Rambling Rose,

As a keen Rambler I get out and about whenever I can, whatever the weather. Some of my walking friends

chicken out when the forecast is bad, but it doesn't bother me. In fact, I love mud. The muddier the better, as far as I'm concerned. It's so slippery and messy, with its colourful shades of brown. Mud can be shallow or deep, light or heavy. It's much more interesting than all those miles of dry paths we sometimes have to go along to get to the muddy sections. I adore the sounds of mud, too, as your boots sink in and out. In fact, I'm beginning to love walking in mud more than walking on dry land.

Is this normal? Maybe, through your column, you could put me in touch with other mud lovers.

GL

What a brave letter, GL. Please do not despair. I feel sure your letter will strike a chord (or a squelch?) with some of our readers and will no doubt provoke some interesting responses. I do hope your honesty in "coming clean" (if you will forgive the expression) about your unusual predilection will help you find some sole mates through our columns.

GOOD LUCK,

ENJOY YOUR WALKING,
RAMBLING ROSE



When winter comes, can spring be far behind?

The editors would be pleased to receive spring or summer photographs to illustrate our April edition. Please send them, preferably by email, to one of the addresses below. All photos received will be displayed on our website if there is not enough space in Area News.



Snowdrops and winter aconites, St. Ethelburga's Church, Givendale, February 2008. Photo by DCW

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

Email to danywlo@yahoo.co.uk or paulrhodes16@yahoo.co.uk

The deadline for the next issue is: **Feb 15th 2009**

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