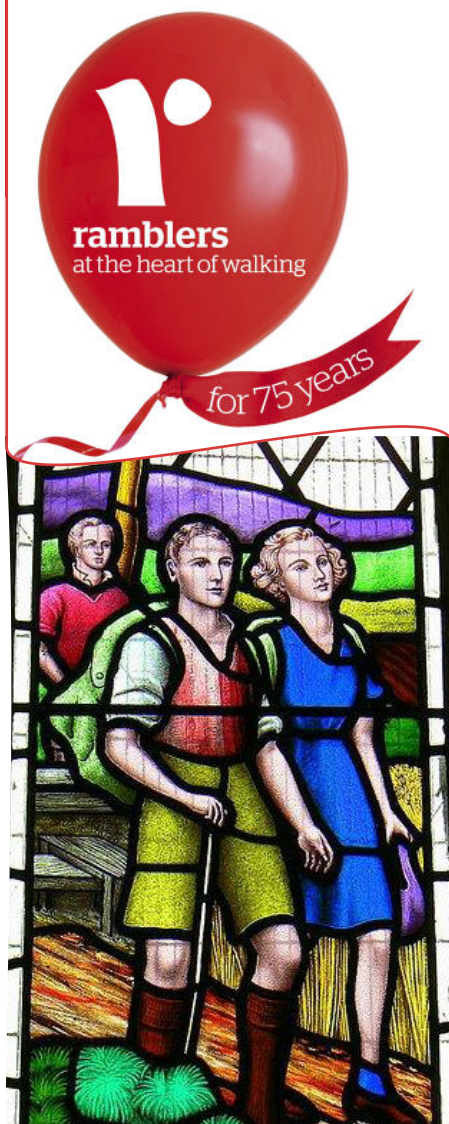




Detail from the window of the Ramblers' Church at Walesby in Lincolnshire close to the Viking Way, about 3 miles NE of Market Rasen. Photo courtesy of Romeo66

This redundant church was renovated in the 1930s and became the meeting place for various local groups including ramblers. The above window was donated by local ramblers in 1951 and a special service for walkers and cyclists takes place every year on Trinity Sunday. To find out more, try googling 'Ramblers Church' on the Internet.

The Original Walking Company

RAMBLERS HOLIDAYS
Tel: **01707 331133**


Ramblers
Worldwide Holidays

Ramblers 75th Birthday

In 2010 Britain's walking charity is 75 years old. Since its 1935 inauguration, the organisation and its many volunteers have been campaigning tirelessly on behalf of walkers. Britain is criss-crossed with over 225,000 km of footpaths, bridleways and public rights of way. With its sumptuous countryside, National Parks, way-marked paths and enlightened 'Right to Roam' and Coastal Access Acts, Britain is one of the most walker-friendly countries in the world. Seventy five years ago, when 99% of the Peak District was out-of-bounds to the public and people often risked gamekeepers and even prison simply to go on a walk, things were very different.

Celebrations

75th anniversary events will be taking place all over the country. In our own Area, we will also be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Minster Way. Details will be in our next issue and on our website.

Current Concerns

Due to the recent financial crisis, Ramblers groups and areas are having to tighten their belts. Some prominent members have expressed concern over the handling of the crisis and a special meeting was

organised in Leeds which our Area Secretary attended. Ramblers Central Office also organised a series of regional meetings recently where local volunteers were able to meet with the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Chief Executive Tom Franklin to voice concerns, particularly over the reduction of staffing at Ramblers Central Office. See our website if you wish to read reports of these meetings. Please note that we have produced this slim-line edition of Area News so that we can run to at least one full colour edition later in the year. We have held over one or two items to the April edition so that we can print the accompanying photos in colour.

Advice to Leaders

Some guidelines on the new leader's checklist would appear to be inappropriate to our Area. Following suggestions from members, your Area Council plans to produce a card which walkers can carry voluntarily which would make essential information readily available in the unlikely event of an emergency on a walk.

The Good, the Bad and the Expert

Howden and Goole Ramblers Fungal Foray, page two. Photo by Marian Thomas



Advance Notice

An Evening with Alfred Wainwright

Friday 7th May at 7.30 pm at the Memorial Hall, Pickering

Presented by John Burland
Tickets £5 available from Trailblazer Outdoors, Market Place, Pickering, from 5th April 2010. For further information contact Phil on **01751 476380**.

Area Mailshots

Thank you to all those who responded to our request to receive Area News and other mailings by email, thus saving postage and paper.

If you too would prefer to receive items such as Area News, your Group Newsletter, the Annual Report and the Rambles Programme electronically, please inform the Membership Secretary by emailing

areamembers@hotmail.co.uk

EAST YORKSHIRE & DERWENT AREA RAMBLERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY JANUARY 30th 2010

at the

**Village Hall, Strensall
near York**

Starting at 2pm

**GUEST SPEAKER
KATE ASHBROOK**

See separate sheet for details

Group News

In October, the Howden & Goole group went on a 5-mile walk at Thorne Moors, looking for and identifying varieties of mushrooms and toadstools.

Thorne Moors is a large area of abandoned peat workings just south of Goole. For many years, when commercial peat extraction was going on, the moors were not open to the public. However, now peat extraction has ceased, the area has become a nature reserve and is being restored as a peatland habitat. The boggy wetlands provide an ideal habitat for rare plants, breeding birds, deer and reptiles such as grass snakes and adders.

Our walk leader, Roy Dresser, knows Thorne Moors well and guided us safely round the boggy areas pointing out examples of various types of mushrooms and toadstools as we went. We found edible mushrooms such as the common ink cap, grassland puff balls and parasol mushrooms. Roy assured us that these were all safe to eat, but none of us were brave enough to try them.

Marian Thomas



*Scarborough Group weekend at Hebden Bridge, June 2009.
Photo courtesy of Les Atkinson*

Scarborough Group Weekend Away

Having enjoyed a 12-mile walk from Hebden Bridge, Les and Margie Atkinson decided to offer a weekend away to the rest of their group.

Accommodation was arranged at the Robin Hood Inn. The group arrived in time for an evening meal on Friday. Next day, writes Les, after a huge breakfast, we were on our way by ten. First objective Hardcastle Crag, where we called in at the NT Gibson Mill for morning break. Then on to "The Pack Horse Inn" just off the Pennine Way where we quenched our thirst, returning to base via Heptonstall and Hebden Water for a roast beef dinner.

Sunday's walk started from Todmorden, taking in the Rochdale Canal, Mankinholes and the Stoodly Pike Monument, then Geddins Dam and the Pudding Stone where the Chartists used to hold their Civil Rights meetings. A steep descent to the start for a cup of tea, then the drive home. Two great walks, super B&B, lovely food, fine weather and the company was best of all. Who needs to go abroad when all this is on your doorstep?

Les M. Atkinson



Roy Dresser leads Howden and Goole Group on a fungal foray at Thorne Moors in October 2009 Photo courtesy of Marian Thomas

EXTRA WALKS

The information below supplements that which you will find in our 2009-10 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
JAN 13	WED	10:30	YA	KEN WALKER	8	SE	692	552	GATE HELMSLEY VHCP
JAN 20	WED	10:30	YA	JOHN POWELL	8	SE	628	498	THE OUTGANG
JAN 27	WED	10:30	YA	CHRIS BUSH	8	SE	862	756	SCAMPSTON WALLED GARDEN
FEB 3	WED	10:30	YA	IAN TURNER	8	SE	513	644	TOLLERTON VILLAGE GREEN
FEB 10	WED	10:30	YA	JOHN ROFF	8	SE	376	659	ROECLIFFE VILLAGE GREEN
FEB 17	WED	10:30	YA	DOREEN FELTON	8	SE	530	465	BILBROUGH CHURCH
FEB 24	WED	10:30	YA	MARGARET GREEN	8	SE	446	621	GREAT OUSEBURN VHCP
MAR 3	WED	10:30	YA	JUDITH TOSH	8	SE	878	418	MARKET WEIGHTON CHURCH
MAR 10	WED	10:30	YA	JOHN WOOD	8	SE	361	512	SPOFFORTH CRICKET GROUND
MAR 17	WED	10:30	YA	ANNE ALLISON	8	SE	829	519	MILLINGTON CHURCH
MAR 24	WED	10:30	YA	DOROTHY PAMPLIN	8	SE	710	648	BARTON HILL
MAR 31	WED	10:30	YA	KEN WALKER	8	SE	843	611	THIXENDALE CHURCH
APR 21	WED	11:00	B	CHRIS BUSH	7	SE	686	910	LOWNA
YA	YORK WEDNESDAY AMBLES For further details contact Jackie Glew Tel: 01423 869489 Mobile: 07858 145079 Email: glewj@ntlworld.com or Margaret Green Tel: 01423 330242 Mobile: 07710 850790 Email: margaret@telgen.co.uk								

SCARBOROUGH THURSDAY WALKS Margaret Inham continues to lead weekly walks on a Thursday morning of about 6 miles, ending with a bar snack. For details telephone **01723 377222**

The Ramblers' Association is a registered charity (England and Wales no: 1093577, in Scotland no: SC039799) and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales (no: 4458492). Registered office: Second Floor, Camelford House, 87-90 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TW

Henry Fawcett, pioneer of commons preservation

Henry Fawcett was one of a doughty band which, from the mid-nineteenth century, campaigned to change the attitudes and legislation which were allowing England's ancient commons to be enclosed, on the parliamentary nod, with scant regard for the interests of local villagers and the wider public.

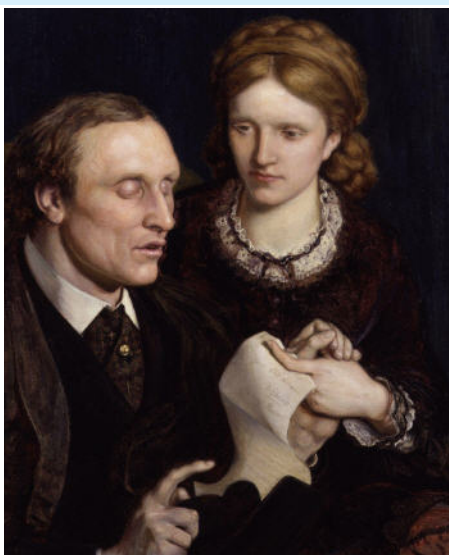
A tall, powerfully built, handsome, elegant man, he was a persuasive orator, hard working and very, very determined - or bloody minded as it sometimes seemed to his colleagues. He was born in 1833 in Salisbury, where his father was a draper. The family were not wealthy, though he was able to study at Cambridge University where he later became professor of political economy. He went on to become an MP and a cabinet minister, all before his early death at the age of 51.

Such a career would have been a glittering achievement for any man of modest family in Victorian England, but Henry Fawcett was also blind, having lost the sight of both eyes in a shooting accident while still a student. He reacted with extraordinary courage. He is said to have told a friend that it took him one night to decide whether the loss of his sight should make a difference to his life. He decided it should not.

His friend and biographer Leslie Stephen wrote that 'he had always been a regular and vigorous walker' and continued to be for the rest of his life. Those of us who believe in the restorative power of walking are easily convinced that that was what saved him. He worked to save commons out of a concern for the desperate plight of agricultural labourers, but his own love of walking must have helped motivate him to stay late at Westminster night after night when he suspected his absence would let the enclosers triumph.

Stephen tells us that he was helped by friends initially, but after a while did not need much by way of guidance. He had a good memory for the layout of places he had known before he lost his sight, which must have helped, but used a stick to get around his college, his tapping 'sometimes a little disturbing the light sleepers when he would indulge in a meditative stroll at dead of night'. In town he recognised a crossroads by differences in the echo and current of the air.

He enjoyed his friends' descriptions of views he could not see, but his lack of sight may have made other delights of walking more intense for him. He was MP for Brighton and liked walking along the cliffs for the 'delightful air, the smooth turf of the chalk down, and the murmur of the waves below'. He continued to love 'most



Portrait of Henry Fawcett and his wife, early feminist Dame Millicent Garrett Fawcett, whom he married in 1867, by the artist Ford Madox Ford.

Picture courtesy of Google images.

heartily' the sounds of the countryside, the rustle of leaves, birdsong, a fish leaping, but also had 'associations with the light of the sun and moon unknown to him before he was blind'.

It is an inspiring story and one which should warn us all against concentrating on the 'dis' in disability, rather than the 'ability'.

Ann Holt

Area President

Pub Lunch Walks

We plan to run a pub lunch walk each month on different days of the week, generally of six to ten miles in length. So far the preference is to have circular walks that end with a lunch. All walks will be advertised on the Ramblers Walk Finder. If you wish to receive details of the walks, send an e-mail to roy_hunt@btinternet.com.

This month's walk will be on Saturday 30th January at 9:30 from the Crown and Cushion car park at Welburn, SE 720 680. Distance is 7.5 miles. We will order lunch before we set off. We should be back between 1:00 and 1:30 PM. The February pub lunch walk will start from Sheriff Hutton VH Car Park, SE 648 660, meeting at 10:00 on Wednesday 24th February. Lunch will be at Terrington after 6 miles followed by 3.5 miles downhill back to Sheriff Hutton after lunch.

Non-walkers are free to join us if they wish and non-diners will be equally welcome on the walks.

Roy Hunt

Win cash for countryside projects
Visit www.bovril.co.uk to nominate a project and win cash or a Bovril flask!

George Barker

News of the sudden death of George Barker, while walking near Walberswick in Suffolk, came as a great shock to local RA members. George had been Chairman of the Hull and Holderness Group and a walk leader not only for the RA but also for the Tuesday Walkers and for the local church, leading walks round Holderness. He was proud of his local area and was well-known for his evening walks round Burstwick which often ended with supper in George and Janice's garden.

George lived life to the full. When younger he was a keen long-distance walker and also a competitive cyclist. Holidays with Janice were spent either in their caravan, from where he was able to go fishing, or travelling and walking all over Britain. He was a keen supporter of Hull City Football Club. He was passionate about wildlife and his garden, especially his ponds, and passed on his enthusiasm to the children he taught.

Professionally, George was a well-liked and respected teacher, who had been much involved with Junior High School sport. As Deputy Headmaster of Wansbeck School on the Longhill Estate in Hull, George had direct contact with the Duchess of Kent who taught music at the school anonymously as "Mrs Kent". On her invitation George and Janice were privileged to go with her choir to The Maltings at Aldborough for the children to enjoy the Festival of Music there. After his retirement George worked in the Centre for Educational Studies at the University of Hull.

Both in his working life and in his leisure activities George gave of his time and energy, sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm with others. Our deepest sympathy goes to Janice.

Alison Parkes

The Yorkshire Wolds Way

A longstanding problem on the Yorkshire Wolds Way near High Hunsley has recently been resolved. The dangerous 160 metre section along the verge of the busy B1230 at map reference 939.350 near the High Hunsley beacon has now been re-routed on a newly-dedicated public footpath along the field edge to the north of the road. It is sign-posted at both ends. We thank the landowner and the Definitive Map Team at ERYC for this much needed improvement.

This is a tribute to the work of Andrew Lawes, who was in charge of the Definitive Map Team at ERYC. Andrew died recently in a tragic accident in Beverley, and we express our sincere condolences to his wife and family.

Peter Ayling



Rambling Rose - The friend who understands

Dear Rambling Rose,

Since he retired my husband has become increasingly grumpy. In fact virtually everything seems to irritate him these days. On walks he will complain that the parking is chaotic, the lunch stop is too early or too late, the leader treats people like sheep, it would have been better to do the walk anti-clockwise and so on. When we get home the lamentations continue: why do modern boots have round laces - flat ones don't come undone; backmarkers look ridiculous in those high visibility vests - we'll have lollipop ladies with us next; the Ramblers is pathetic - I bet you'll soon need an identity card and first aid kit before you can walk with them. If that were not enough, he will then begin his daily onslaught on Political Correctness. Relying on all my 30 years of wifely experience, I usually manage to keep quiet but it's still a strain. How unusual is his condition Rambling Rose? Is it normal? I don't remember my father being such a misery.

ARP, Beverley.

I suspect your husband is one of those countless men in the western world who, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), are suffering from *v.meldrewitis*. At present the genesis of the condition is poorly understood but the syndrome is thought to be less common among women, so it is probably not the result of a viral or other infection. The latest research indicates that males may have a genetic predisposition to *v.m.* and that the number of cases will soar - possibly to near-universal levels - as greater life expectancy

increases the likelihood of the condition developing. At the moment there is no cure, although some psychotherapists believe that the symptoms can be alleviated somewhat by a regimen of alcohol and high-calorie meals.

Dear Rambling Rose,

I have contacted you several times before about the raunchy novel I am writing about ramblers. Unfortunately I am not making much progress at the moment, mainly because I don't feel happy with the title. Originally, I liked *The Bride Wore Gortex* but eventually decided it sounded far too depressing. Then I toyed with *Hotfoot in Pursuit* but it kept summoning up very un-raunchy images of the *Keystone Cops*. So now I am back to square one. Any ideas Rambling Rose? I know you have a way with words.

LSE, York

As a pedestrian Agony Aunt, creative writing is hardly one of my strengths. Nevertheless, what about Permissive Path? Or is that too 1970's? Or, following Jilly Cooper and Wicked!, how about Trespass!? But maybe that's rather old-fashioned as well? High Stile has a nice up-market ring and The Kissing Gate might play well with Mills and Boon readers. Or, if you fancy one of those fashionably zany titles how about: A Short History of Signposting, Way Marking and Reporting in the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire? Mind you with that title some of your readers might be in for a bit of a surprise!

Enjoy your walking,

RAMBLING ROSE



Footpath Volunteers in the East Riding

Our group of footpath volunteers continues to go out monthly to undertake footpath work with two or three members of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council Access team. In the past year, we've travelled widely in the East Riding, from Barmby on the Marsh to Sproatley, and from Huggate to Thearne, mainly to install kissing gates, bridges or signposts. We meet up in Beverley before 9 am and travel to the site in the ERYC's 4x4, and sometimes, if we're a full group, in one of our cars. We're fortunate to have a professional joiner in our team, so along with the East Riding staff he's able to guide our efforts. Recently we've joined up with two members of the East Riding's full-time maintenance staff, allowing us to split into two working groups and get through much more work.

It really is very satisfying at the end of the day to look back at a new bridge or several kissing gates. The reactions of the public to our work are interesting and varied: many walkers thank us for our efforts; in the centre of one village where our B team had rejoined the A team finishing their final task of the day putting up a sign post, a Parish Councillor came by and asked whether it really took seven men to dig a hole! In another village, a kind resident offered us morning coffee.

ERYC has now produced a marker sign that acknowledges the Ramblers' contribution and includes our new logo. When we finished the new kissing gate at Shiptonthorpe in October, it was

fitting that on our behalf Ray Fielden, one of our original "gang of four", fixed the first of these markers in place. We are pleased that the East Riding Access team leader Patrick Wharram whose support enabled our idea to become reality was also with us. We look forward to our marker signs appearing on many more of our projects in the future.

For more information on the Working Party, email Ivor Jones, iljones@iljones.karoo.co.uk or telephone **01482 882385**
Peter Ayling



Putting up a kissing-gate at Beeford
Photo provided by ERYC

**WORK UNDERTAKEN
ON THIS PATH
HAS BEEN ACHIEVED
WITH THE ASSISTANCE
OF VOLUNTEERS
FROM THE RAMBLERS**



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: **February 15th 2010**

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