

East Yorkshire and Derwent Ramblers AREA NEWSLETTER Spring 2025



Midlife Hikers at Flamborough March 2025

Hi Everybody

Welcome to the Spring 2025 edition of Area Newsletter. The need for a newsletter for Area was questioned at the recent Area AGM but I believe that it is important. It is all too easy to remain insular and to treat what has gone on in your own group for many years as the only way to do things. Having an area newsletter shares what is going on in the various groups to over 1600 Area members, it gives everybody and particularly committee members fresh ideas and also shares news of future events, such as the area camp and the East Yorkshire walking festival, which anybody in the area is entitled to attend.

In this issue we bring news from the groups, feedback on the new walk leader training and events in the future. I volunteered to take over from Marian the editorship of Area News shortly after the Area AGM in January and aim to keep it going, though the current issue is a joint effort of myself and Marian. I will need a constant supply of material to make the newsletter really interesting, so whether this be details of walking holidays, memorable group walks and events, letters to the editor, details of footpath issues, tricky situations, send them all to me, at garymalcolm@garymalcolm.plus.com

Gary Malcolm
Area Newsletter Editor
11th April 2025

CONTENTS

1. Area AGM on 1st February- report
2. Risk Assessments
3. East Yorkshire Walking Festival September 2025
4. Free Navigation training (courtesy of the acting chairman)
5. Mid-Life Hikers new group
6. Beverley Group coach ramble 11th May
7. York Group coach ramble- 29th June
8. Area Camp June 27th to 30th 2025 Muker Yorkshire Dales
9. Walk Leader Online Training
10. Focus on Scarborough Group
11. Richard Bedford; Obituary

1.East Yorkshire & Derwent Area AGM at Bishop Wilton on 1st February

The Area AGM took place on Saturday 1st February at Bishop Wilton Village Hall, with 51 members attending. The AGM was hosted by Pocklington Group , who organised two enjoyable led walks for the morning session. Unfortunately due to a train strike there were no trains from London to York, so that no one was available from the Ramblers Board of Trustees to attend the AGM and to give our members an update on the activities of the board.

The main concern of the meeting was the lack of volunteers for several important officer posts. Our area is still without a chair after 12 months; our Treasurer Sam Borman has agreed to continue to act as chair on a temporary basis, since having a chair-person is a mandatory requirement for an area to function. Another essential post that is still vacant is Rights of Way Officer for North Yorkshire; our footpath rights of way and clearance work is the difference between the Ramblers and other walking groups.

There was some lively discussion about flexi-groups and whether in this digital age the Area still needs a newsletter; the meeting finished with tea and some very tasty cakes provided by Pocklington group and an opportunity to socialise.

Marian Thomas
Area Secretary

2.Walk Safety & Risk Assessments on Led walks

Are you still confused about whether you need to carry out a risk assessment?!

Following updated walk leaders guidance from Ramblers Central Office in April 2024, walk leaders are no longer required to complete a written risk assessment for every walk they lead, however walk leaders are still expected to consider possible hazards they might encounter on their walk and advise walkers - for instance if the walk includes a really steep slope or muddy, possibly slippery area, walk leader could advise the walkers to consider taking a walking pole(s).

The Ramblers have drawn up a generic risk assessment to cover possible issues that should be considered when leading a walk, and have encouraged Areas to adapt this to reflect local practices and common sense. Our Area generic risk assessment for leisurely and moderated walks is on our Area website www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk ; there is a link on the homepage. The Area generic risk assessment is a useful starting point for walk leaders to think about possible risks or obstacles they may encounter on their specific walk.

There is also a link to the walk leaders check list, which is a useful reminder for new and experienced walk leaders alike. Walk leaders should be prepared to review any risks on the day, depending on the weather and local conditions and take mitigating action if necessary.

Marian Thomas
Area Secretary

3.The Annual Walking East Yorkshire Festival..... and the Ramblers Involvement

Our local Ramblers Groups have been involved with the Annual Walking East Yorkshire Festival for the last 8 years and this year the date of the festival will be from Saturday 6 – Sunday 14 September 2025. Our Area fully support the aims of this Walking and Outdoors Festival and we have worked in close conjunction with the Events Team to provide input into the Festival Walks Programme.

The Festival Programme for this September will be published in the summer and our website <https://www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk/> will have a link to the Festival website when it is released. To see the range of events on offer in 2025 go to the Festival Website <https://www.walkingeastyorkshirefestival.co.uk/>

Popular year-on-year events include history tours of our pretty market towns, long-distance treks, Nordic walking, canal boat rides, horse riding, wildlife experiences, seabird cruises, vineyard tours, brewery visits, ghost walks, lighthouse tours, outdoor pursuits including kayaking, bodyboarding and wild swimming.

Martin Hill
Pocklington Ramblers

4. Free Navigation Training

Do you sometimes get lost? Are you occasionally confused by what's on the map? Do you know what a compass can do for you other than point to North?

Then why not come on one of my navigation courses? The course consists of you studying a training book, which I will supply. We then go out for a day on

the Moors to put into practise what you have learnt, and the best part is that there is no charge for this course. Each course has only four students and I supply each of them with an OS map of the area and a Silva compass. We spend about 6 hours on the moors, mostly in open access moorland, carrying out a series of navigation exercises in pairs. We do map reading exercises to determine our position using landmarks; use compass bearings to walk across open moorland to a location and use pacing and timing to judge the distance we have travelled. Afterwards we usually go to a teashop in Hutton-le-Hole to talk over the day. I am a silver level mountain leader and used to lead for HF Holidays and have run 31 of these courses, so I don't usually get lost.



If you are interested then please contact me on 07752801488 or samdavbor@yahoo.com

Sam Borman

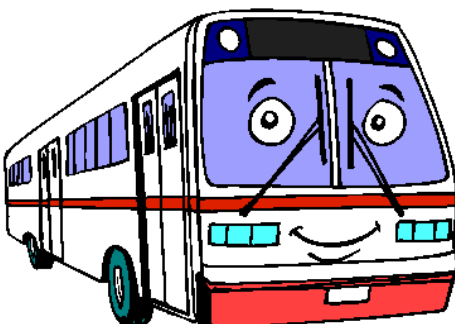
5. MIDLIFE HIKERS

This year our Area has seen the launch of a new group- the Midlife Hikers- it is aimed at walkers in their 40s and 50s. The group is an off shoot from GYBO (Get Your Boots On) which was formed 20 years ago and is aimed at young people in their 20s and 30s. Whilst GYBO has always welcomed people who are outside that age range, for some time older members were becoming conscious they did not want to lose what made GYBO so distinctive and appealing to younger people by having ever more members over the age of 40. The time was right for older members to move on and create a new group for those in their 40s and 50s and it is hoped this will attract lots of new members who didn't previously have an obvious group to walk with.

The group is flourishing, attendance at walks has been very strong with an average of 35 walkers; the group are using Facebook to advertise their walks and have in excess of 1.3k followers. They are planning to have 2 or 3 walks a month at weekends, ranging from easier mid-length walks to challenging hikes, along with some shorter mid-week walks during the summer. They are also planning a range of social events in the evenings and weekends and to have 2 or 3 weekends away each year.

6. BEVERLEY COACH RAMBLE

Beverley Ramblers are running a coach ramble on 11 May from Ravenscar to Whitby, 2 walks, 11 miles and 6.5 miles. We are now offering this outing to all



Ramblers. The cost is £17.

We still have quite a few places to fill. Anybody is welcome, provided they are a Ramblers member. Pick up points for the coach are Beverley (8.15am) and Market Weighton (8.30am)

If you are interested, please contact Cathy at beverleycoachramble@outlook.com for a booking form.

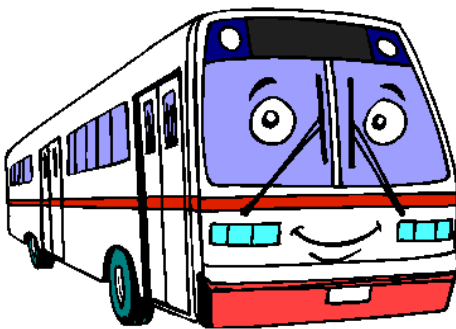
Karen van Eck

Beverley Ramblers Membership Secretary

7. YORK COACH RAMBLE

Plans are proceeding for our next coach ramble, which is scheduled for Sunday 29th June.

As usual, we will be offering three walks of different lengths and difficulty (a strenuous 12-mile walk, a moderate walk of around 9 miles and a leisurely 7-miler). The walks will be linear with all ending up in the beautiful village of Kettlewell with time at the end to explore it and enjoy refreshments together. Further details and a booking form will appear soon on the York Ramblers website.



Tony Tew

8. EAST YORKSHIRE & DERWENT AREA RAMBLERS – AREA CAMP 2025 – SWALEDALE



Usha Gap Campsite

The Area Camp this year is based at Usha Gap Campsite at Muker in the Dales. It starts on Friday 27th June early afternoon and ends about 1pm on Monday 30th June, with short walks on Friday and Monday and a choice of longer and shorter walks on Saturday and Sunday. There will be a group meal at Kearsons Country Hotel at Thwaite on Sunday night. Leaders will be John Motley (Ryedale Group), Rachel Carlin & Norman Barclay (Scarborough Group).

The 'Camp' is an all embracing term. Whilst some ramblers do indeed spend a few nights in their tents, others use motor homes, bed and breakfast, hotels or rent holiday homes.

For full details, please contact John at john.motley@btconnect.com.

9. Walk Leader Online Training

New leaders are now required to do the online training which involves watching two videos and answering some simple questions. We asked some new leaders and some group committee members in the area about their experiences of online training

(a) Nickie, Hull and Holderness

I've just led my fourth walk as a new walk leader, having completed the Ramblers online training in October last year. I enjoyed the training. I appreciated learning at my own pace and from experienced 'real life' people. I did skip through the Mountain Rescue section though, as we don't have many mountains in East Yorkshire!

Whilst I've done First Aid training before, the online course was helpful because it was in the context of what could happen whilst walking with a group. Guidance on what to include in my First Aid kit was also invaluable.

There feels a significant difference though between theory and practice. I have found large groups quite overwhelming but these experiences help me remember to draw on the huge knowledge and experience of other group members. You don't have to lead on your own and collaboration is so much better. I'm also learning to think about middle as well as back markers, but also to slow down as I can tend to walk a bit too fast - especially when chatting! I've also appreciated group members receiving walks with me and co-leading.

(b) John Medland, Hull and Holderness Group

I volunteered to lead some local walks and needed to do the online Walk Leader Training. It was informative and did not take long, there were some interesting snippets of information. The only section that slowed me up was Safeguarding. Fortunately, my wife, a retired Deputy Head was able to give me pointers to the safeguarding questions.

(c) Experiences at York group

At least six more York members have completed the online training for new walk leaders in the last few months. Feedback continues to be largely positive re both the content and format of the training, with the 'scenarios' being picked out as giving particular pause for thought. A reassuring point which stood out for one experienced leader was that incidents occur in only 1% of walks. She found it beneficial to have reminders about useful kit to take when leading walks and this prompted a review of her First Aid kit! A couple of experienced leaders disagreed with the answer to one of the multiple-choice questions which suggested that in some circumstances members of a group could decide to reject the leadership of the walk leader. In their opinion, the correct process when a serious issue arises on a walk should involve a discussion led by the group leader, in which group members may offer advice and opinions before the leader makes the final decision. It was felt that every walker 'signs up' to accepting the leader's judgement and decisions when they participate in a led walk.

- Tony Tew
- York Group
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(d) Experience at Ryedale Group

- Whilst numbers on the walks have been encouraging, with several new members
- joining us, persuading members to lead a walk has been difficult, not helped
- by the requirement for new leaders to undertake the on-line training course.
-
- Ian Gibbs
- Ryedale Group

10 FOCUS ON SCARBOROUGH GROUP



*Scarborough group on Aldergate Bank walk from Harland Moor
9/3/25*

Phil Trafford, former chair of Scarborough group recalls the early days of the group;

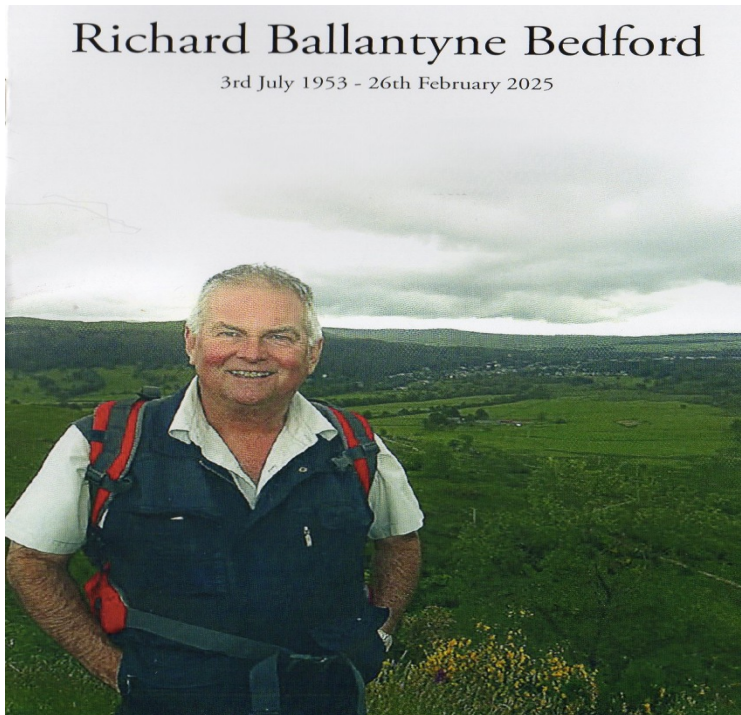
The group was formed in 1988 or 89. Previously, Scarborough residents had been in the Ryedale group but the numbers on rambles were becoming too high, so a separate Scarborough group was formed. I can't remember the chairman's name, but I recall he was Welsh. I think the first secretary was Ron Robinson, a painter and decorator from Scarborough. Most of the walks were planned and led by Jack Crimliss, a chap in his 80's who had been the last post master at Hutton Buscel post office. When Jack had to go onto hospital, he persuaded other members to start leading. One such member was Judy Trafford, who became Ramblers organiser for a few years. Ray Johnson took over the reins from her.

The first footpath officer was Scarborough solicitor John Lawrence, who later became Chairman. Bob Clutson then took over as footpath officer. John also organised several trips for long weekends, which were well attended. I recall ones to Northumberland, Helmsley, Ilkley and the Lion Inn. The group went from strength to strength. Frances Snee became Chairperson and Anne Thornton became a very active secretary attending several annual conferences. I think Richard Bedford was the next Chairman followed by myself

Gary Malcolm, present chairman of Scarborough Group continues;

I joined Scarborough Group in about 2013 after moving to Scarborough from Norwich where I had been an active member of Norwich Ramblers and the Norfolk and Suffolk LDWA. When I first joined there were frequently quite large groups walking each Sunday, typically between 20 and 30 walkers. After a short while I started leading walks and within a few years became secretary and then treasurer and a couple of years ago I became chairman after Roger Crowther, who had succeeded Phil Trafford as chairman. Probably due to Covid, the Scarborough group had some difficulty in the early 2020's with low turnouts and a difficulty in attracting leaders. The group is now in a stronger position and with the assistance of the current secretary, Cathryn Ferris, we have added at least one social event quarterly. Whether this is a meal with or without a short walk beforehand, ten pin bowling, beetle drive or a treasure hunt, we find such events are popular with our members and help to provide a sense of cohesion and belonging amongst our members which translates to more leaders and better turnouts. Scarborough Group has played a major part in organising the annual area camp and Phil Trafford and Harry Whitehouse from the group organised the camp for some years, followed by Wayne and Donna Dosdale and they have now handed over the reins to Rachel Carlin and Norman Barclay from our group together with John Motley from Ryedale group. The camp this year is at Muker (see section 8)

11. RICHARD BEDFORD: OBITUARY



Richard Ballantyne Bedford

3rd July 1953 - 26th February 2025

Gary Malcolm writes:

We are sorry to report that Richard Bedford, a former stalwart of Scarborough Group died on 26th February 2025 after a long illness. Richard had been a primary school teacher for most of his working life. He had been a committee member and former chair of the group and led many walks, both for Scarborough and Pocklington groups. I got to know him well on trips that he led across the channel in Northern France and to Krakow in Poland. He had a strong link to Scotland and loved the Callendar region which we visited a couple of times and where we did a Munro or two. Its funny that its the small things you remember, like going into Richard's room pre-dinner in Calais with Lisa, Pam and Sheena for a whisky or vodka and having an argument with a landlady in Callendar over her refusal to make us porridge in the morning. Eight ramblers went to his well

attended funeral. Although he had not been active in the Scarborough group for some years due to his illness, those of us who knew Richard will not forget him.

FINALLY, HAPPY EASTER....have a good summer too and we expect the next issue of this newsletter to be in the autumn. Please send any contributions to the editor at garymalcolm@garymalcolm.plus.com

