

EY&D Area Monday Group

Like everyone else we have experienced wet and cold weather during the first six months of 2024. Even so, we have found the footpaths in many cases in good condition.

So far this year up to 24th June we have completed 22 varied walks; many thanks to the walk leaders and walkers who have supported the group. This year we are hosting a walk for the East Yorkshire Walking Festival on 16th Sept which we are all looking forward to. Peter Godfrey



East Yorkshire Walking Festival - Saturday 14th to Sunday 22nd September.

The walking festival consists of a full week of walks, tours and other activities throughout East Yorkshire. Copies of the brochure can be downloaded from www.walkingeastyorkshirefestival.co.uk or hard copies are available from Beverley Tourist information office. Our local walk leaders are contributing a number of walks to the festival, these do not have to be booked in advance if they are listed on the Ramblers website or our Area website (www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk)

Hull & Holderness Group

Although we're limited with walk leaders, we are aiming to provide a regular fortnightly programme, so the group remains viable. The wet Autumn, and Winter, and Spring has been a challenge - we've had to move walks which would normally be best in February or March to May and June to avoid the bogs. One interesting result was from Burstwick to Keyingham via Kelsey Gardens. Last year a reedy area along the drain was very soft going in April, so this year we did it in June. It was dryer, although still muddy in parts - but the reeds had grown to well over 6ft! So we had to machete our way through the jungle. We always get 16 or 17 people on our walks, with a mixture of regulars and new members. Over the years many new members have become regular walkers with the group.

We still await completion of the coast path in our area. Humber Bridge to Hull will follow the existing Transpennine Trail, but work still needs to be done from Hull to Spurn, and then up through Withernsea and Hornsea to join the trail at Bridlington. The long-distance path will make many new and different walks possible in our area. The walk between two iconic landmarks - Humber Bridge and Spurn Point - will surely attract Ramblers from far and wide, and boost tourism.

Hull & Holderness have come under the national spotlight, as we are being featured in the Autumn issue of Walk Magazine! Best view? Favourite pub or cafe? We've had our say, but you'll have to wait until late Summer to find out - and doubtless disagree! Steve Lack



Volunteering with North York Moor National Park

Have you recently found that 10 miles is that bit too much, and started doing shorter walks, with fewer people? – I certainly couldn't cope with the usual Wednesday 10-miles now!

In that case, why not try volunteering on the North York Moors National Park, and give something back for all those wonderful times you've spent walking the greatest routes in the country? It is now over 20 years since I started volunteering during the week, which is why I no longer join Ramblers' walks, except on special occasions. There are opportunities every day of the week, in every part of the NYMNP, and you can choose how active you want to be – based at a visitor centre like Danby or Sutton Bank, cutting back vegetation anywhere, learning new skills like drystone walling, repairing fences & gates, clearing ditches etc. My favourite tool is a mattock! You are always part of a helpful, supervised group, and job-satisfaction is very high.

And you aren't expected to work in bad weather! By volunteering you will help to keep the Moors in good order, as the paid staff are few and far between – you would not be doing anyone out of a job, rather ensuring that they fulfilled it by having extra hands to lighten the load. You are working in a group, which has become, for me, a second family. If you feel like giving it a go, have a look at the NYMNP website

<https://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/communities/volunteering-in-the-north-york-moors>

My email is vsilberberg@outlook.com if you have any questions. See you there!

Vera Silberberg

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 teasop 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

I went on one of Sam's courses, it was very useful and enjoyable. Editor

Vacant Area Posts

Area Chair

We are currently without an Area Chair; having a chair person is a mandatory requirement for an area to function. Our treasurer Sam Borman has taken on the role on a temporary basis only.

Footpath Officer for North Yorkshire

Our footpath work is the difference between the Ramblers and other walking groups. This role involves acting as an interface with North Yorkshire Council on Right of Way issues, and if necessary passing them onto the local Ramblers group. The work is rewarding and expertise and advice is available.

Members are asked to seriously consider volunteering a little of their time to fill one of these crucial roles.

Do you have an older i-pad or i-phone? Problems with the Ramblers website

If you have an older i-pad, i-phone or Mac computer you need to be aware that there are problems with the start time of Ramblers walks when viewed on the Ramblers website; the start time appears as one hour later than the actual start time. A couple of new members with older i-phones have turned up one hour late for a walk due to this problem.

This has been reported to the Ramblers help desk, but they say it is due to Apple no longer updating devices running on iOS 12.5.7. If you do have an older Apple device, do not use the Ramblers website to view walk start times, however the Area website www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk will give you the correct start time.

Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Chalkland Way on Sunday 28th April 2024

Background- Area Council expressed interest in commemorating the Chalkland Way's 30th Anniversary, occurring during 2024. Pocklington Group having organised walking it in 4 stages, as part of East Riding of Yorkshire's 2022 Walking Festival, offered help in organising the event for 2024. The Chalkland Way -was created in 1994 by Ray Wallis, a member and Vice President of our local Ramblers, it is a 40-mile circular walking route, linking the beautiful Yorkshire Wolds villages of Great Givendale, Bishop Wilton, Bugthorpe, Thixendale, Fimber, Wetwang and Huggate. Four of the local Ramblers Groups each led a section of the route (Pocklington, Howden and Goole, Scarborough and Get Your Boots On). To walk the entire trail in one day four distinct and separate sections were devised: Stage 1 -Wetwang to Millington 12.5 miles (GYBO), Stage 2-Thixendale to Wetwang 8.8 miles (Howden & Goole), Stage 3-Bishop Wilton to Thixendale 11.8 miles (Scarborough), Stage 4-Millington to Bishop Wilton 9.7 miles (Pocklington). A coach was hired to transport walkers between finish and start points of respective stages. Our Area East Yorkshire & Derwent funded the cost of hiring a coach and use of Bishop Wilton Village Hall for post walk celebrations. Members were given priority booking to this event, before remaining places were made available to the public through East Riding of Yorkshire Council's booking service. The Council also publicised the event and very kindly provided tea and cakes at Bishop Wilton Village Hall. Each Stage of the walk was limited to a maximum of 34 walkers as a 34-seater coach was booked, thereby providing a limit to keep group numbers manageable to lead. Bookings went exceptionally well with a total of 112 signed up, mainly Ramblers members but attracting a good number of potential new recruits to Ramblers.



Having endured a very wet autumn, winter and early spring, we were hoping for a nice sunny day. on 28th April, sadly, the exact opposite happened- a morning of biblical rain followed by a wet afternoon. However, over half of those who had booked cheerfully turned up and braved atrocious conditions. Walking through a sodden landscape, negotiating deep mud and wading through many flooded areas was an experience for everyone. All walks were completed but needing a few minor diversions along the Chalkland Way route, to avoid obstructions caused by mud and flooding. One walker appropriately summed the walk up with the quote "a day to remember".

Post Walk Celebrations: Ray Wallis, creator of the Chalkland Way and Minster Way was our honoured guest at Bishop Wilton Village Hall for post walk celebrations. Peter Ayling, Vice-President of our Area gave a vote of thanks. Marian Thomas, Area Secretary, on behalf of Ramblers presented Ray with a framed certificate of appreciation, with some personalised words about his contribution to the Rights of Way network. Tony Corrigan then presented Ray with a commemorative plaque, identical to one on a bench that Tony and the Pocklington footpath team had recently installed on the Chalkland Way at Jessops Plantation. Funding for the bench was sponsored by 'Ultra Trails' a Stamford Bridge based running club, who wanted to mark the 30th Anniversary.



We had a good turnout at the village hall, weary walkers wanting to meet Ray Wallis, dry out and enjoy a welcome cup of tea & piece of cake. Several members who knew Ray from the past attended to share in the celebrations.

And a big thank you to:

- Ray Wallis for joining our celebrations and devising such an excellent walk (and all he has done for the Ramblers spanning many years).
- East Yorkshire and Derwent Area Ramblers Association for an initiative to celebrate the Anniversary and funding coach and hall. Visit East Yorkshire (part of ERYC) for publicising the event, providing a booking service and providing us with refreshments.
- Those Pocklington members (Kate, Howard, Sally, Paul and Anne) who tirelessly worked to prepare the venue, provide us with tea and cakes and clear up at the end.
- Tony Corrigan for work that he and Pocklington's Footpath Maintenance Team have done to maintain the Chalkland Way; clearing paths, repairing broken signs, new Chalkland Way signage and erecting a bench and plaque to celebrate the Anniversary. Also Ultra Trails of Stamford Bridge for kindly sponsoring the bench.
- Walk Leaders, (Andrew, Marian, Gary and Cathryn) for leading the walks & all walkers who braved atrocious conditions and helped to make the day memorable.

Martin Hill, Pocklington Ramblers

Ryedale Group explore the Hanging Stones Project at Rosedale

Hanging Stones is an ongoing project by Andy Goldsworthy in the North York Moors, commissioned by the Ross Foundation. Nine existing buildings (plus one new building) that were in varying states of disrepair have been rebuilt as artworks and connected by a six-mile walk encompassing Northdale, near Rosedale Abbey. Hanging Stones has been conceived by Goldsworthy as a single artwork – the walk between each building is as much a part of the artwork as the buildings themselves.

Well, that's the official blurb you will find at www.hangingstones.org, so why would a tight-fisted ramble pay £10 to go on a walk and see some "artworks"? It's a two-part answer. First, the walk itself is delightful. A lovely footpath into North Dale gives way to way-marked permissive paths leading to the artworks. You climb gently up the east side of the dale with great views before reaching open access moorland. Roughly halfway round there's a great lunch stop near Job's Well. The route turns south past the old Red Barn and back through woodland and meadow to Rosedale Abbey. I'd go for the walk alone. Second, the artworks are truly amazing. I don't want to give much away here, since the excitement of the day is based on successive discoveries inside each of the installations. Hanging Stone describes the first, but it's best that you find each new one in turn as you unlock the door and enter through the darkness. The artist has made superb and intriguing use of local materials. He pays respect to essential elements like fire, earth, water and light. There are also things that challenge you to think and be playful. Enough said.

As the introduction said, the walk and the artworks come as one. It's a day's package of joy and inspiration. I came away feeling happier, more at one with nature, after a day of discovery with new friends. In essence, discovery and friendship are what walking is about. You don't get much better than that. Worth a tenner? Yes, definitely!





Photos shows Area Treasurer & temporary acting chair/treasurer

Sam Borman presenting Ann Laing with a certificate of appreciation from the national Ramblers for her many years of service as an Area & Group volunteer.

York Ramblers Coach Outing

On Sunday 22nd June, 42 members of York Ramblers set off on a coach trip to the coast. The day of our much anticipated 2024 coach ramble had arrived! Thanks to the sterling efforts of several members, three walks were on offer. All of them converged on the same spot in the lovely seaside town of Saltburn. We were dropped off in turn; those opting for the A group with 12 miles of walking ahead of them got off first, then the B group with 9 miles to do and finally the C group walking 6 miles. Groups A and B both enjoyed magnificent views from the iconic Roseberry Topping and everyone walked a section of the wonderful Cleveland Way. The weather was uncharacteristically perfect all day and there was plenty of time at the end for us all to enjoy refreshments and, for those who wanted, a stroll on the beach. A big thank you to Ingleby's Coaches and our driver, Steve, for getting us there and back safely. Tony Tew



Chris Bush Remembered

Chris Bush died in April this year, he was a tireless advocate for public rights of way and a dedicated member of Ramblers. His passion for walking was evident throughout his decades of service with both the York Ramblers Group Committee and the East Yorkshire and Derwent Area Council. Chris became involved at the national level, serving on the Board of Trustees of the Ramblers between 2002 and 2004. He organised the York Wednesday Walks' programme for several years as well as liaising with up to ten group walk secretaries prior to producing the half-yearly Area Programme and Events booklet, which listed all the led walks to be offered in the Area. During the 2001 Foot and Mouth outbreak, which closed most paths for months, he created an emergency programme. He was the driving force behind the formation of the Howden & Goole Ramblers group, acting as their first chairman and drafting their constitution. He worked to protect public rights of way as Footpath Secretary for the EY&D Area Ramblers and for York Ramblers (1999-2003 and again in 2011). When there was a possibility that existing paths not shown on the Definitive map might be lost, he was involved in identifying paths for possible inclusion before the then 2025 cut-off. He will be deeply missed. Tom Halstead with assistance from several Area and York Group members.

Writing a Book About Walking

The idea of writing a book about the history of rambling must have come to me in the mid-1970s. By that time I had met and married David Rubinstein, who for many years was deeply involved in The Ramblers at national and local level. I read his pioneering book on the Wolds Way, part of a project which seemed pretty theoretical in those days. Along with describing the route worked out by local Ramblers, David included in his Dalesman Guide snippets of information about the prehistory, history, archaeology and buildings on and near the route, writers who had explored the area in the past and various quirky objects and stories to be encountered along the way. I had begun to learn that rambling was not just about people who liked walking, it was a social movement with its own organisations, heroes, stories of past controversies and people who walked with a passion.

I began to write articles of various sorts and collected 'material', articles and stories from newspapers and magazines, bits and pieces encountered in books. I talked to other Ramblers. Visits to second-hand bookshops became a hunt for classic accounts of walking exploits and old walking guides, histories of the organisations founded to encourage walking and protect what made walking worthwhile. I became interested in the myriad groups, committees and societies concerned in one way or another with walkers and walking, such as footpath preservation societies, which appeared from the early nineteenth century onwards. Some of them are still active, like the Peak and Northern, which traces its roots back to Manchester in the 1820s. Then there was the outdoor holiday movement, the Holiday Fellowship and the YHA, and links with countryside protection groups big and small, like the Campaign for National Parks. Before long I had a considerable library and a collection of twenty-odd box files. Actually writing the book, however, was forever being pushed into the future. Life kept getting in the way.

In the early years of the new millennium, I decided I had to make a start; a series of questions emerged. What exactly is the difference between what is referred to as 'going for a walk' and just walking, as in 'walking to the corner shop'? Why did people walk for pleasure, as well as to get from A to B, anyway? And, given that people often enjoy walking for more or less practical purposes, did trying to neatly separate recreational and non-recreational walking make any sense? Why, in the nineteenth century, did national and local politicians decide every sizeable urban area should have parks where people could stroll in pleasant surroundings? I realised I had chosen an enormous subject and it was going to be long journey. I kept on jotting things down, writing bits and pieces which might fit in somewhere, sometime. The proto-book got bigger and bigger but remained a patchwork of drafts in varying states of readiness. In the summer of 2019 David died suddenly. In the dark months afterwards writing became a haven where I could take my mind off my loss by becoming absorbed in the twists and turns of the legal system as it chewed over some ancient footpath dispute. Or lose myself in a poem which caught, for me, something of the sheer joy of walking. Then along came the Covid lockdown, writing could still be done in spite of the restrictions and limitations. As the world opened up again, my right hip stopped working properly - I needed a hip replacement. But the book was still there, providing mental activity as the physical variety became more difficult. I spent a lot of time editing, throwing away lots of meanders into fascinating but not strictly relevant byways. Somehow or other these three traumatic events pushed me into completing a task rooted some fifty years earlier.

Rather to my surprise, after several unsuccessful approaches, a publisher did agree to take the book on. Months of copy-editing, rewriting and cutting down on the word count were followed by proof reading, finding illustrations and indexing. Finally, in January of this year an actual, physical, book existed. Despite my attempts to make it more concise it still came in at over 500 pages. The hardback is prohibitively expensive, but there is an online version available for £15 and the late summer edition of Walk Magazine will carry a special offer of £25 per copy. The title is **"Taking a Walk, A history of recreational walking in Britain"**, published by The White Horse Press.

Their website is <http://www.whpress.co.uk>.

Ann Holt

