



ramblers
at the heart of walking

East Yorkshire and
Derwent Area
Ramblers

Annual Report 2017-18



www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk

Officers and Area Council members

President:	Peter Ayling
Vice-presidents:	Jack Bower, Roy Dresser, Ann Holt, John Jefferson, Ann Laing, David Nunns, Ray Wallis
Chairman:	Position vacant
Secretary:	Stephen Down
Treasurer:	George Malcolm
Footpath secretaries:	Matthew Harrison (Hull & East Yorkshire) David Nunns (York & North Yorkshire)
Walks programme:	Geoff Richardson
Countryside officer:	Peter Ayling
Access officer:	Tom Halstead
Communications officer:	Ann Laing
Area News editor:	Marian Thomas
Webmaster:	Tony Corrigan
Membership secretary:	Marilyn Skelton
Minutes secretary:	Tony Corrigan
Independent examiner:	Emily Hunt

Group secretaries

Beverley:	Joe Neal
Get Your Boots On:	Rebecca Davies
Howden and Goole:	Marian Thomas
Hull and Holderness:	Elaine Tague
Pocklington:	Sally White
Ryedale:	Jane Preston
Scarborough:	Gary Malcolm
York:	Richard Bramall

All officers and group secretaries can be contacted via the Area website, or by writing to the Secretary at 6 Carentan Close, Selby, YO8 4YJ for members without internet access.

Notice of the 2019 Area Annual General Meeting

All EYDA Ramblers members, and representatives of affiliated organisations, are invited to attend the **Annual General Meeting** at 2.00pm on **Saturday 26 January 2019** in **Beverley Minster Parish Hall, Minster Yard South, Beverley, HU17 0DP**.

Prospective members may be introduced and are welcome, but will not be eligible to vote in the election.

Agenda

1. Attendance (please sign the record) and apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Annual report for 2017–18
5. Financial statement – accounts for year ending 30 September 2018
6. Election of officers and council members

President	Vice-presidents	Chairman
Vice-chairman	Secretary	Treasurer
Area footpath secretaries	Minutes secretary	Countryside officer
Access officer	Communications officer	Area News editor
Webmaster	Membership officer	Walks programme coordinator
Publicity officer	Area Council members	

7. Appointment of independent examiner
8. Appointment of Area Delegates to 2019 General Council in Manchester
9. Motions of which notice has been given in writing to the Area Secretary in accordance with rule 11 (viii) of the Constitution
10. Any other business

After the formal meeting and a short break, there will be talks by Malcolm Hodgson (National Trails Officer) and a Ramblers trustee.



Area Secretary's remarks

We were very disappointed to lose our experienced Area Chair when Roy Hunt stood down in July for personal reasons, after 2½ years in the role. As I was in my first year as secretary, this has left us with a small deficit in both expertise and capacity, but supported by a strong Area Council we have continued to fulfil the purpose of the organisation.

As in previous years, Area Council has met five times during the year, at Wetwang and Fimber village halls, and while there has generally been good attendance at these meetings, we do continue to urge all officers to attend where possible and all groups to send a committee representative to each meeting.

Peter Ayling and Lynn Croskin attended General Council in Bangor as delegates, with Tony Corrigan attending as a visitor – this is the annual conference for The Ramblers. The 2019 General Council will be held in Manchester on 13–14 April, and Area Council will confirm who is to be nominated as delegates at the first meeting after the AGM, and any members who are interested in this should contact their Group chair or secretary.

The Area has moved towards more electronic communication with members, in order to reduce the cost and environmental impact of printing and posting paper copies where members are happy to receive these by email. The introduction of GDPR has meant that we do need explicit permission from members to contact them by email, and so we would encourage any members who have not yet done so to register with the Ramblers website and give permission for email communications so that we can continue to reduce waste.

Stephen Down

Walks programme and events

This year winter 2017/18 and summer 2018, approximately 621 walks were published in the 'Programme and Events' booklets, with 286 in the Winter Programme and 335 in the Summer Programme. This is an increase of 8.7% on the previous year. Slightly fewer were posted on the Ramblers Walks Finder with most groups including a location in the 'Title' enabling visitors and guests to search for walks by location. The Walks Finder facility for walks description and further information could be used more.

Both 'Winter Walks Festival' and 'Walk About' can have walks attributed to these events.

Although every effort is made to adhere to the programme, it does very occasionally happen that details of a published walk need to be amended. In the event of severe weather or unforeseen road works, any cancellation or amendment will be published on

the Ramblers Walks Finder and, where possible, also on Area and Group websites and via individual email to group members.

If severe weather is forecast, it is each walker's responsibility to check the Walks Finder, Area and Group websites for amendments (or to phone a friend who can) or, as a last resort, to phone the relevant Group/Walk Secretary before setting off for the walk.

If the planned route is not walkable or hazardous, eg the start may be accessible but the planned route could be obstructed (by deep snow for example), an alternative, possibly shorter route might be considered. Both the route and the distance can be altered prior to or on the walk without notice at the leader's discretion.

Leaders and groups should consult the full policy for amending or cancelling walks on the area website where the relevant contact details are provided as well as in the programme booklet.

Geoff Richardson

Access Report

Ramblers Proposals

Volunteers from the Area have submitted three reports containing their proposals for improved access to the Yorkshire coast to Natural England: Filey Brigg to North Gare (March 2013, 73pp), Filey Brigg to Kilnsea (November 2013, 136pp) and Kilnsea to the Humber Bridge (January 2015, 44pp). The total length of the stretches surveyed was 154 miles, which is 5.5% of the length of what will become the England Coast Path. In February 2018, a copy of the first report was deposited at the North Yorkshire County Record Office and copies of the other reports at the East Riding Archives. Copies of all three reports were sent to Ramblers Central Office. The definitive story of the England Coast Path – how it happened, why it happened and who made it happen - is to be published as part of a guide to be published in 2020. The Ramblers' involvement will be an important focus of the story and all the volunteers from our area who have helped with the coast path have agreed for their names to be included on a roll of honour in the book.

Easington to Filey Brigg

On 28 February 2018, Natural England (NE) submitted a report to the Secretary of State for DEFRA setting out the proposals for improved access to the coast between Easington and Filey Brigg. Following a consultation period, objections were forwarded for consideration by the Planning Inspectorate who will make recommendations to the Secretary of State.

Once the Secretary of State has approved the report, NE will start work with ERYC and NYCC on preparing the route for public use. The first step will be to contact owners and occupiers of the affected land to discuss the design and location of any new infrastructure which is required such as signs and gates. When preparations are complete, new access rights will be brought into force along the route and adjoining spreading room. This is expected to happen in 2020.

Humber Bridge to Easington

NE is now visiting all the land on this stretch of coast that is likely to be affected by our proposals and discussing the options in detail with people who own or manage the land. NE is expecting to publish their proposals in spring 2019.

Tom Halstead

Footpath report: York and North Yorkshire

In the York and North Yorkshire part of our area, I am available for advice and consultation if I can be of any help to our three local groups, each with their own experienced Footpath Secretaries. The only time all three met together last year was at the two NYCC Public Rights Of Way Local Liaison Group meetings at Northallerton.

These meetings can be useful, in that we also meet some North Yorkshire South Durham Area Ramblers and other path User Groups.

With NYCC cutbacks almost half the path network have nearly 10,000 unresolved Issues, with over 11% obstructed, which is more than last year. They are continuing to roll out new procedures based on those legally responsible resolving the Issues, which is a new culture for NYCC.

As mentioned last year, under the new procedures old Issues will be ignored (unless they are reported again).

As a consequence, Ryedale Group are again re-visiting the Issues they have reported in the past and York Group have progressed with setting up their Path Survey scheme and maintain a database of reported Issues, to keep a cross-check on NYCC (and the City of York, both parishes and urban wards).

Procedures are being introduced to allow any member of the public to report Issues from mobile phones (similar to Ramblers Pathwatch?) which will show grid references and enable photos to be uploaded, so staff can email landowners and tenants for their views and suggested actions without having to visit most issue sites. Please report any Issue you

come across as they will definitely not be resolved by themselves. With the more efficient procedures we hope to see some progress on issue resolution.

The essential re-digitisation of the Definitive Map is not progressing as fast as NYCC had hoped, especially for our part of the county. This is still delaying work on longstanding claims for adding paths to the Map and processing applications to divert or close paths. It does not help that there is no sign of the secondary regulations under the 2015 Deregulation Act being published, with Defra staff seconded to Brexit work.

The 2026 deadline is getting much closer and I know of 3 or 4 members who are attempting to claim paths – there can be a lot of work just to claim a single path – do you know of a path that should perhaps be a public right of way?

If you have been in the Kirkham Abbey area recently, you may have seen the improvement to the Centenary Way path across the level crossing, as part the enhancement we agreed with NYCC and Network Rail, to allow us to agree to the closure of the nearby footpath crossing over the railway, which has taken over 4 years.

York Group are still surveying 25% of the paths in York's 'rural' parishes. There are several old Issues on these paths and one Issue in Knapton I reported over 45 years ago is finally being resolved, with regional money from the nearby new roundabout and the help of Sustrans. Some people find working with cyclists difficult. Sustrans have come up with a new strapline of 'Paths for All', which includes walkers and pedestrians – let's see what happens.

Progress on York's Definitive Map work is still exceptionally slow, with Russell Varley taking over from Joanne Coote (both of whom used to work for NYCC). A path York Group claimed over 42 years ago was finally sent to the Secretary of State, for a decision hopefully next year.

I have not been able to put much effort into this work over the past 3 years and would like someone else to take over from me. You can all improve the path network by reporting issues you come across, letting your local group know of any action, or inaction, by the local authority. Take secateurs to ensure the overgrown stile is available for the next walker to come along.

Could some of you keep a look out for planning applications that may affect paths, or suggest changes to plans to make the proposed development more Rambler and pedestrian friendly – it cannot be done by just one person in each group, or area.

David Nunns

Footpath report: East Riding and Hull

My first year as the Area Footpath Secretary has been a 'learning' year for me. 15 years or so in using my brain in a different way than of old when I was used to committees, minutes and such like has taken me some time to adjust! Worrying that all is quiet, too quiet at times, means am I missing material I should be working on? My mentor in my new role, Tony Corrigan assures me that it has been a quiet year all around, which normally means that the following year will be busy.

We have had 10 notifications from the ERYC of proposed footpath changes. Most have been straightforward. One main issue that the Committee have been working through is the Long Lane Development at Drifffield, of which others are more qualified to comment.

Two issues that will no doubt be running for a while is naturally the England Coast Path which in our area concerns Filey Brigg to Easington and Easington to the Humber Bridge. Again others are more qualified to update us all on this.

Another big project that is being worked up by the relevant authority is the Hull Flood Prevention project which will start soon. Naturally this is a very important project in defence of the infrastructure of Hull. This will involve diverting for some time some of the Trans Pennine Trail, so we will hopefully be kept up to date with any proposed footpath diversions.

Hull and the proposed A63 improvement. I believe our Chairman is 'on the case' on this one!

I look forward to my next year with the Ramblers, and again I thank you all for bearing with me as I settle in.

Matthew Harrison



Membership report

Membership Figures from 30 September 2017 to 30 September 2018

There were 1556 members on 30 September 2018 (1602 on 30 September 2017).

That equals a 2.95% reduction in membership in the year to 30 September 2018. (1.05% reduction in the previous year).

The number of new members in the period 30 September 2017 to 30 September 2018 was 176, compared with 190 in the previous year.

Membership figures by group

Group	30 Sept 2017	30 Sept 2018	Change
ER01 Beverley	313	295	-18
ER03 Hull & Holderness	150	168	+17
ER04 Ryedale	133	141	+8
ER05 Scarborough	111	101	-10
ER06 Pocklington	176	169	-7
ER07 York	519	490	-29
ER09 Howden & Goole	62	63	+1
ER50 GYBO	95	79	-16
ER96 unattached members	40	50	+10

The total membership living in England, Scotland, Wales and Overseas on 30 September 2018 was 102,818 (104,694 on 30 September 2017), a reduction of 1.79%.

Eleven walking clubs in our Area are affiliated to the Ramblers. We appreciate their support. They are:

Patrington Walking Club, Goole & District RC, Hull CHA Rambling club, Rowntree Moor & Fell Club, Scarborough Rambling Club, Wheldrake Walking Club, Wykehyker Walking Club, York HF Rambling Club, The Windmill Walkers, Ryedale Walking Group, and the Christian Walking Club.

Marilyn Skelton



Countryside Report

Wind turbines

There were no applications for onshore wind turbines in the past year, only requests for small modifications to turbines that have already been approved. This is entirely the result of the removal of subsidies, and could change overnight if the government were to reintroduce subsidies.

Fracking

In England, fracking has commenced only in Lancashire. No drilling is taking place at the single site within our Area at Kirby Misperton near Malton. As part of the way in which applications for fracking would be considered in the future, the government is considering taking over from local authorities the power to grant planning permission for fracking projects: the Ramblers has not agreed a policy over this proposal, but it would be against our principal of localism in local government.

Major housing developments

ERYC has approved, subject to minor conditions, the application 16/02784 for 900 houses in two phases on farm land SE of Beverley up to the new Minster Way bypass: we objected to this at an earlier stage, because of its size and lack of regard for the existing wildlife and vegetation.

Highways England (HE) scheme for A63 in Hull Old Town

We have supported the campaign by Steve Lack and the Hull & Holderness Group to retain a pedestrian crossing or bridge across the A63 in the Hull Old Town at Market Place-Queen Street, to create a more pedestrian-friendly environment. HE is responsible for this scheme, and does not always give sufficient thought to pedestrians' needs.

National countryside policy

Central Office is reviewing its policies, and I was invited to the meeting of the new Countryside Protection Sounding Board at Central Office in April. Revised job descriptions for Area and Group officers, under the general title of "Environmental Protection Officer" have been written. Central Office has also informed Areas about: (i) the proposed Northern Forest, for which the Forestry Commission is the lead organisation, with the Woodland Trust leading the stakeholder discussions – we hope the Ramblers will have a strong input into these discussions; (ii) a visit to North Yorkshire Moors by members of the government's Glover Review of National Parks and AONBs (due to report in 2019); (iii) a

welcome consultation that has just been received on the provision of training for countryside volunteers.

UN report on Climate Change

This recently published report stressing the need to restrict world temperature increase to 1.5 degrees is a concern for us individually and as ramblers. We believe such an important issue should be subject of debate and action by Ramblers.

Countryside team

Thanks to Bob Dealey (Beverley Countryside Officer) and Tony Corrigan (Pocklington) for their valued advice. Volunteers for environmental protection officers in other Groups would be a great boost to this work.

Peter Ayling

Area Website

www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk

Although contributions from most groups is minimal the website continues to be viewed by a significant number of members and visitors. From 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2018, more than 350,000 pages were viewed.

Publication of news items or other material of interest remains a main feature and it is pleasing to learn that nearly all new members have looked at our website prior to joining on line.

Main attractions include access to the calendar of Led Walks, use of the mapping facility, postcode/grid reference converter and photograph albums. In respect of the latter, the bulk of displayed images are from Pocklington Group with others from York Group's Tuesday walks, including pub lunch programme.

New applications and adjustments are a frequent occurrence to enhance system operation. Planned for implementation in the near future is software that will enhance the mapping facility.

Tony Corrigan

Area News

During the last past year three editions of Area News have been produced; items include the AGM details and calling notice, Area Chairman's report, President's comments, information about Area and Group events, coach outings, details of Area camping weekends, footpath issues and photos of Ramblers enjoying walks in all weathers. My sincere thanks to all those who have contributed articles, news items and photos; special thanks to Peter Ayling for proof reading each edition.

In order to save printing and postage costs, Area Council has made the majority decision to abandon the January mailshot, the main purpose of which was to distribute the Annual Report to members and to send out the AGM calling notice via Area News. This means that from 2019, there will only be two mailshots per year and therefore two editions of Area News. The 2019 AGM calling notice appeared in the September edition of Area News.

Marian Thomas



Treasurer's report

Financial year ending 30 September 2018

A breakdown of receipts and expenditure for the year ending 30 September 2018 is shown on the separate Financial Summary document. The Area's main income source is funds allocated by Ramblers Central Office (CO) but it is also worth mentioning that product sales have provided a steady income over the years. Ray Wallis' Minster Way Booklet continues to be a major contributor augmented in recent years by Tom Halstead's Open Access Booklet. Product sales amounted to £1,015.79 this year.

In the Treasurer's Report last year the cost of member mailshots was highlighted. The aim was to encourage members to switch to electronic mailing. The total cost of member mailshots this year was £4,834.66. That figure comprises the printing cost of three newsletters, two walks programmes and the Annual Report, together with postage costs of £1,924.66 and stuffing meeting room hire of £68.00. Last year mailshots cost £4,832.73 but there was only one walks programme included in that cost so there has been a reduction in printing and distribution costs overall. Nevertheless as member mailshots continue to be a substantial proportion of Area spend members are requested to consider changing to electronic communication.

The funding allocation from CO this year was much less than requested because CO considered the combined Groups and Area bank balance, or reserve as CO calls it, excessive because it exceeded the combined annual expenditure in 2016/17. Not surprisingly therefore the Area ended the year with a much reduced reserve of £5,841.77, that is £3,974.54 down on the figure at the start of the year. CO guidance is that the reserve figure should be maintained at a range of 40–100% of annual expenditure. The annual expenditure for the year was £7,301.97 and the reserve figure represents 80% of annual expenditure. This has changed the position on the previous year when the reserve figure exceeded the recommended level.

The Area has no cash in hand, loans or investments but does have stock valued at £1,814.12.

Finally, the Area would like to thank Emily Hunt for her independent examination of the Area accounts.

George Malcolm

Accounts for year to 30 September 2018

	2017/18	2016/17
Receipts	3,327.43	6,487.82
Funding from CO	2,296.64	5,531.20
Donations and Sundry items	15.00	5.80
Bank Interest (Unity Bank)	0	0
Publications/Badges sales	1,015.79	950.82
Expenditure	7,301.97	7,438.65
Walks Programmes	864.84	410.00
Printing	850.00	
Postage	14.84	
Walks Leader Training	100.68	28.01
Newsletters and Publicity	3060.00	3,701.61
Printing	844.00	1,141.00
Postage	1,909.82	2,111.73
Other	306.18	448.88
Publication/Goods costs	0	322.80
Campaigns and Casework	474.88	141.40
Practical Work	0	100.00
Group Funding	1,180.71	939.80
Meetings (including AGM)	1,575.86	1,700.30
Printing - Annual Report	1,148.00	1,170.00
Other	427.86	530.30
Admin/Other	45.00	94.73
Subscription		45.00
Admin costs		49.73
MOVEMENT IN FUNDS +/-	-3,974.54	-950.83

Statement of affairs

	2017/18	2016/17
Fixed Assets – Written Down Value	0	0
Total Net Book Value	0	0
(In accordance with RA Policy, only items costing over £5,000 need capitalising and shown as Fixed Assets.)		
Current Assets		
Stock	1,814.12	2,043.53
Balance at Unity Bank	5,841.77	9,816.31
Total Current Assets	7,655.89	11,859.84
Accumulated Fund		
At start of year	9,816.31	10,767.14
Excess/Deficit of income over payments	-3,974.54	-950.83
	5,841.77	9,816.31

The above reflects the position on receipts and payments basis.



Group reports

Beverley Group

Beverley Ramblers have contributed a total of 50 walks to the Area combined schedule, Summer and Winter 2018 programmes. These consist of 43 Sunday walks inclusive of the annual coach ramble, plus, 7 shorter Wednesday evening walks starting at 7pm. These walks covered a total distance of 401 miles using a loyal team of 23 volunteer leaders, many undertaking a least 2 walks per schedule. Our thanks go to these volunteer members, who regularly take on the commitment of leading walks for the Beverley Group.

In May 2018, another successful coach ramble in glorious weather was completed travelling to Reeth, Swaledale to drop off the 'A' walking group to walk 10 miles east into Richmond on the famous Wainwright's Coast to Coast route. The 'B' group were led on a 6 mile circular route around Richmond including a visit to the remains of Easby Abbey. Sadly, from a membership of 300 in the Beverley Group, we still had 10 vacant places on the 53 seat coach for a very cheap day out and ramble. Hopefully, our 2019 coach visit to Saltaire on Sunday 28 April with two stunning walks will allow for a maximum take-up.

On 3rd June, a memorial walk from Sinnington was held for our late and much respected former Chairman David Court. David's widow Christine attended together with two friends and was presented with a spray of flowers. Area President Peter Ayling also attended who paid tribute to the valued work David had undertaken for the Ramblers. David Hepworth then led a group of 27 round the route from Sinnington village, visiting Appleton Le Moors and Lastingham, a walk David Court regularly led himself for Beverley Ramblers.

The group has seen a pleasing increase in number of members attending walks over recent months. An early October walk from Pocklington Canal Head attracted 29 including visitors from Huddersfield.

Beverley have produced and circulated three printed Newsletters in 2018 informing members of activities, relevant information and other topical issues.

The group have been included in an email forum with Footpath Secretaries to discuss notifications from the East Riding of Yorkshire Council regarding public rights of way Creation Orders and Definitive Map Modification Orders.

The notion of Beverley Ramblers producing a 'River Hull Walks' booklet was instigated some time ago. This project has not been without difficulties resulting in a longer than anticipated timescale from start to printed article. Obviously the sad passing of Dany Włodarczyk in 2016 was a major factor. Her unfinished drafts of work together with material from other contributors were consolidated and eventually moved forward with

Secretary Joe Neal at the helm. However, even in 2016, it was clear there were some problems with the legality of some public rights of way in the Parish of Watton following major drainage works and Barmston Drain. Just this summer, the East Riding of Yorkshire Council has been able to formally resolve some disputed issues, but not all, to allow the booklet to go to print. A copy is available from the Secretary, Joe Neal for a nominal £4.00.

Beverley Pathminders have continued to meet every fortnight and have provided 205 Hours of work on the local footpath network. We are desperate for new members, so if the idea of a morning's hard physical labour, in great countryside, with spade or billhook appeals, please contact Joe Neal.

Joe Neal

Get Your Boots On

Get Your Boots On has had a very positive year, we have had two weekends away; one to the Isle of Arran, and the other to Dolgellau in North Wales.

We have had a full walk diary, with walks on every weekend over the summer, and several of our members have led their first walks this year. Our long-distance route this year was the Yorkshire Wolds Way, which we did in seven sections and proved very popular. We have had a varied walk diary this year and it has enticed several new members to the group. We have also run a few socials including go-karting and cinema trips, as well as the monthly pub meets.

Looking to the future we hope to keep encouraging our members to lead their first walks. Next year's Easter trip will be at the Glen Nevis hostel, Scotland.

Karen Travis

Howden and Goole Group

Although the smallest group in the Area with a steady membership of around 64, we punch above our weight and are a very friendly group.

This has been another active year for the group, we organised 36 walks, 15 of which were on a Sunday, there were 8 Saturday walks, also 8 mid-week walks, plus 5 shorter summer evening walks. However we are short of walk leaders, with only 12 different members leading walks throughout the year. Walks have varied from 5 to 11 miles, which we hope provides something for everyone.

We have also continued with the optional practice of first meeting up either at Howden or Goole to arrange car sharing to the start of the walk. This seems to work well for our group

- it is environmentally friendly and a good way to get to know your fellow walkers. All our walks have been a maximum of one hour's drive from Howden or Goole. We have enjoyed a number of local walks along the banks of the Rivers Ouse, Derwent & Aire and of course in the lovely East Yorkshire Wolds, but have also walked further afield including Hatfield Moors, the Ancholme Valley and North Lincolnshire Wolds, Skipwith Common, St Aidan's RSPB Reserve, Drax Power Station Nature Reserve, Bubwith Rail Trail, Gateforth & Brayton Barff bluebells.

On the social side, we enjoyed a Christmas lunch walk; traditional post-Christmas mince pie and mulled wine walk from Howden and our winter lunch at the Golf Club.

We had a stall at the Goole Hobbies Exhibition in March and in November our group led an 8 mile walk for East Riding of Yorkshire Council's "Countryside Events" programme, exploring Oakhill Nature Reserve and the nearby canal towpath. Our walks are regularly advertised in the Goole Times thanks to our member Janet Jackson, who is a local news reporter. Thanks to all our walk leaders and committee members for their continued hard work.

Marian Thomas



Hull and Holderness Group

Hull City of Culture was always going to be a hard act to follow. Ramblers continued the series of story walks begun as our contribution to 2017. This time the walks were spread over the year rather than compacted into one week, which was certainly easier to manage. Membership has increased by about 30% to about 170. This is very encouraging, although we do start from a low base compared to York and Beverley. We have contributed to consultations and planning applications affecting footpaths and pedestrian access and followed up reports of blocked paths.

Walks

A full programme of summer walks was again provided, with the Tuesday evening short ones being popular. There is still a need to recruit more walk leaders, and we are looking to run a navigation and walk leading course to encourage people to come forward.

Nottinghamshire Ramblers visit

Notts Ramblers, led by ex-Howden and Goole member Karen Williams, spent a group weekend in Beverley and H&H Walks Secretary Steve Mullarkey organised a full programme of walks around the East Riding for them, with other committee members helping and leading walks. The weekend included a Ghost Walk around Beverley led by Paul Schofield.

Footpaths and access

Highways England held a major consultation on the future of Castle Street, the main road running through Hull to the docks. Ramblers were concerned to ensure that any developments provide better pedestrian access from the city centre to the harbour; not least because the riverside pathway is already part of the Trans Pennine Trail, and will form part of the England Coast Path. Unfortunately our calls for a footbridge linking the Old Town and harbour have been rejected, but we continue to lobby relevant authorities. Work on the main footbridge at Prince's Quay is due to start in late 2018. Further challenges are ahead; the England Coast Path will pass through a large part of our territory, raising the prospect of an uninterrupted path from Bridlington to Spurn and then along the Humber to the bridge. Proposed major developments at Hedon and in Hull city centre may pose a threat to countryside and riverside paths, but there may also be opportunities to improve access.

Committee

Thanks to outgoing Treasurer Heidi Marwan for her work in stabilising the budget after a long period with no-one in post; and to her successor Val Mullarkey. Eric Wright has been getting to grips with footpath issues, Steve Mullarkey ensuring that we have a varied programme of walks, and Elaine Tague has been tackling the difficult changes in membership brought by GDPR.

Pat Tulloch

It was with deep sadness that we marked the passing of Pat Tulloch, wife of our Hon Life President and long-time Chair Jim Tulloch, to whom we send condolences. As provider of support to Jim during his days as H&H organiser and world-wide Ramblers Holidays leader, Pat was cheerful and resourceful. Latterly she was a graceful host, allowing her living room to be taken over by the Group Committee's lively meetings. We will miss her.

Steve Lack

Pocklington Group

The Walks Programme

Our aim as a Group is to provide a programme of walks that include a walk each Wednesday, a walk each weekend and an evening walk in the summer. We have managed to meet this objective, although it becomes increasingly difficult to attract members to lead walks. We desperately need more members to come forward to lead, as we are relying on fewer and fewer people.

Membership

There has been a decrease in overall membership of the number of members in our group, from 179 last year at 30th September 2017 to 169 members at the same date in 2018. Over the year we have attracted 22 new members, but 32 members have left the group. We need to attempt to reverse this overall decline.

The percentage of members opting for electronic communication has increased from 3% to 32% following a concerted campaign.

Footpath Maintenance Team

Amongst other tasks, the team repair bridges, put up waymark posts, install kissing gates, and cut back overgrowth to provide walkers with obstruction free routes. The ten volunteers in the team undertake these countryside protection tasks in liaison with East

Riding of Yorkshire Council. In their distinctive red fleeces emblazoned with the Ramblers logo, the team are a highly visible advertisement of the great work the Ramblers do.

Highlights of the Year

- The Group has invested in a Personal Locator Beacon and 2-way radios to improve the safety of walkers, as well as protective clothing for the footpath maintenance team.
- Our coach ramble in April was to Bakewell and Chatsworth, and was fully booked.
- The walking holiday in May in North Wales was enjoyed by 60 members in fine weather.
- Visit Hull and East Yorkshire (VHEY) organises an annual Walking and Outdoors Festival each September. This year we proposed the idea to walk the entire Yorkshire Wolds Way during the Festival. Pocklington members organised the event and 28 people completed the whole trail. It was also a great way to promote the Ramblers, with a number of those going expressing the intention to join the Ramblers.

Martin Hill

Ryedale Group

Membership at 30 September was 141, compared to 133 at the previous year end, an increase of 6% which compares favourably with local and national statistics. From May 2018 when data protection rules altered, we were asked by CO to check email lists held locally against the central database to check that members on local lists had consented to email communication on the centrally held definitive list and encourage members to update their contact preferences. This work is still ongoing as members begin to appreciate the significance of GDPR.

A full walks programme, with 55 walks, was arranged for the year, this is remarkable as there appears to be more walks than Sundays in the year! On several occasions there were 2 half day walks to encourage those who prefer 5 miles to join or leave at lunch.

Further to the usual programme the coach ramble, to Hawes in Wensleydale, attracted 24 people with 13 on the medium walk and 11 on the harder one. This was followed by the ever popular meal at the Anchor Inn, Whixley. Thanks go to the Leaders of all our walks, without you there would not be a programme.

Important as the walking is, social events are always popular and the walk followed by mince pies just before Christmas proved no exception. The annual Lunch at the Forest and

Vale Hotel, Pickering in January was well attended. The walk prior to the event proved difficult as there was a severe frost and underfoot was more of an ice rink.

John Harland is researching forgotten paths in co-operation with his opposite numbers from York and Pocklington. Parish footpath monitoring in the Ryedale area has been well supported. Of the 88 Parishes only 30 are currently without monitors. The monitors have been recruited not only from Ramblers members but also from Parish Councils themselves and the Ryedale Walking Group. Walking the paths continues with problems being reported and reports coordinated by our Footpath Secretary, Harry Whitehouse, who has created an on-line database which can be accessed by the monitors.

Thanks go to all Committee members who ensure the future of the Group, with especial thanks to Terry Strickland who is standing down at the next AGM. Terry has done a sterling job holding four posts at one time; he will continue as Treasurer and Walks coordinator.

Jane Preston

Scarborough Group

Prior to our 2017 AGM, Trish Mumford, who had been our rambles secretary for a number of years, had to step down due to the serious illness of her husband, Phil. Trish not only arranged a full walks programme for us, but also planned several other initiatives to help walk leaders, such as a navigation course, a first-aid course and a session for new leaders. At the time of writing our group report for 2017, nobody had volunteered to take over the job, but I'm pleased to say that Anne Thornton stepped forward before the AGM and has just completed her second programme of walks. Anne has been a group member for many years and served the group for several years as secretary, so we are grateful to her for "coming out of retirement".

On a sadder note, Phil passed away earlier this year. Members will recall reading his obituary in the Area News.

As well as enjoying the programme of group walks, we have continued to further the aims of the association to maintain and improve access to the countryside. Les Atkinson, our footpath secretary has been as busy as ever dealing with footpath problems and responding to diversion and planning applications as well as continuing to organise our volunteer group, who help the Senior Ranger for the coastal area of the National Park one day a month. If any member could spare a Wednesday each month to help, they would be most welcome to join our happy band. The work is enjoyable and satisfying and benefits us all. Please let Les know if you're interested.

Along with volunteers from Ryedale group and Cleveland Group, eight members of Scarborough have volunteered to help the National Park complete their obligatory, two-yearly, BVPI footpath inspections. These surveys were originally carried out by National Park staff, but austerity measures have put paid to that.

This year's Area Camp in June was organised by Scarborough members, Wayne and Donna Dossdale, at Troutbeck, near Penrith. All who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The campsite was perfect and Wayne and Donna had made several recce trips to plan the walks. They'd even arranged ideal weather (except for the odd thunderstorm).

Our webmaster, Harry Whitehouse has experienced an arduous year, as it was agreed that the site should be transferred from its original host to the RA's own website organisation.

Thus our website's address changed to www.scarboroughramblers.org.uk. This involved an awful lot of work, particularly when it came to transferring the massive archive of walk photographs. The group also have a Facebook group, which members can join at www.facebook.com/groups/201257347115300/. Harry and group secretary Gary Malcolm have also had a lot of work to do in ensuring that the group is following best practice in respect of the new legislation on data protection.

Richard Bedford has again organised a trip to France, which took place a week ago from when I'm writing this report, so I haven't yet spoken to Richard or anyone on the trip to find out how it all went.

As she has done for countless years, Lisa Crozier organised a monthly social meal out for members.

Phil Trafford

York Group

York Group membership stood at 490 at the end of September 2018, which is a net loss of 20 for the year.

Our Parish Path surveys are proceeding very well, although we still require a few volunteers for the few parishes in our area that are not yet covered. There has already been action from the local authority when our surveys have indicated shortcomings, with new finger posts being provided in one Parish.

Our Coach Rambles continue to be popular. This year we visited Rothbury when a few participants took the chance to visit Craggside instead of walking. We also had wet walks from Upper Mill, which ended with the Marsden Jazz Festival.

Public transport walks have had to reorganise some walks this year because of Industrial Action by Northern Rail operatives. However, it is a popular group who this year organised a successful weekend away at Hadrian's Wall.

The Tuesday walks have at least two walks a month in the winter and a walk almost every week in the summer. Tuesday Pub Lunches are still popular and are organised on a monthly basis.

As ever, Wednesday walks attract good numbers. There are two walks every second week, usually one east and one west of York, with two leaders being available for the alternate week, in case numbers dictate that the walk be split. Our walks secretary continues to persuade sufficient volunteers to come forward to lead.

There have been 50 Ambles this year, between 6 to 8 miles, averaging 18 walkers. These have covered areas from Lofthouse in the west to Ravenscar in the east, and have included visitors from other parts of the country as well as members from other groups in the Area. We continue to need new walk leaders. Support and help will be given to those who are uncertain as to what is required.

Sadly two of our stalwart walkers, Alan Clark and Ken Walker, have decided that it is in their best interest that they do not walk with us anymore. For many years they have been excellent walk leaders, back markers and advisors to the group. They have also been involved in path maintenance. Both will be greatly missed, however we expect to see them at various tea rooms at the end of our walks, which have become very much part of the social side of our group.

Regretfully Lynn Croskin has decided to step down as group treasurer at our AGM, after doing a terrific job for the last three years. Our new treasurer will be Paul Shepherd. Eric Smith will replace Marilyn Skelton who will be resigning as Membership secretary. We will be forever thankful to Marilyn for untangling the web of GDPR regulations for us. The new appointments will be confirmed at our AGM, as will our thanks to Lynn and Marilyn for their hard work.

Our AGM, in November 2018, will be held at Welburn Village Hall, following a 6 mile walk. Apart from the AGM, we will be also celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the York Group. The inaugural walk was from Whitwell, and Welburn is as near as possible to the original start point. Our Footpath Secretary, David Nunns, was an original York member and took part in the first walk.

Richard Bramall

Ryedale Walking Group (Affiliated)

2018 was another successful year for Ryedale Walking Group. As well as walks every weekend, and occasional mid-week and evening walks, we held a popular ViewRanger training session and also organised two walking breaks for members.

The first break was in April at Elan Valley Lodge in Wales. 17 members enjoyed a variety of walks in typically Welsh weather! The second break was timed to coincide with the 80th anniversary of the completion of Alfred Wainwright's Pennine Journey. Members walked a section of the journey between Middleton-in-Teesdale and High Force and beyond, along with a number of other walks.

Our annual barbecue was again held at the Sun Inn in Pickering, and our Christmas meal is rapidly approaching.

A number of our members are now acting as Local Footpath Monitors in parishes within Ryedale. This is in association with the Ryedale section of East Yorkshire and Derwent Ramblers.

Eric Wesson



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This 40-page walking guide is published by EYDA Ramblers. Order your copy from Tom Halstead (tkh1@york.ac.uk) for the Ramblers price of £2.50 including p&p.