



ramblers
at the heart of walking

East Yorkshire and
Derwent Area
Ramblers

Annual Report 2018-19



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:	Sam Borman
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 (as at 1 December 2019)

Beverley:	Joe Neal
Get Your Boots On:	Natalie Clarkson
Howden and Goole:	Marian Thomas
Hull and Holderness:	Elaine Tague
Pocklington:	Richard Primmer
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 2020 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 25 January 2020** in **Welburn Village Hall, Church Lane, Welburn, York, YO60 7EG**.

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 2019 Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Annual report for 2018–19
5. Financial statement – accounts for year ending 30 September 2019
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 2020 General Council in Bristol
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 two Ramblers trustees.



Area Secretary's remarks

Our groups continue to offer a full and varied walking programme for members, and we are grateful for the volunteers who lead walks and serve on their group committees and Area Council. It was particularly pleasing to see the high level of interest we had from members in supporting our stand at Countryfile Live, and special thanks go to Ann Laing for her hard work in organising this.

However, while the walking programme remains strong, behind the scenes there can be more of a mixed picture. Some groups have struggled to recruit full committees, and on Area Council we have operated without a Chair throughout this year, which is not a sustainable long-term position. We also have several key members standing down at the AGM, and so it remains really important that we encourage members to put themselves forward for these vital roles. Without effective committees, we will be in danger of losing momentum. Any members who have just a little bit of time to spare can make a valuable contribution, and we appreciate everyone who steps up.

Stephen Down and Thelma Brown attended General Council in Manchester as first-time delegates, with Peter Ayling attending as a visitor – this is the annual conference for The Ramblers. The 2020 General Council will be held in Bristol on 4–5 April, and Area Council will confirm who is to be nominated as delegates at the first meeting after the AGM; any members who are interested in this should contact their Group chair or secretary.

Stephen Down

Obituary: David Rubinstein (1932–2019)

We were very sorry to learn of the sudden and unexpected death of David Rubinstein in July. David was a key member of the Ramblers in our area from when he moved to Hull in the 1960s, and he initiated a successful campaign to create the Wolds Way in 1968. He held many roles on Area Council, before being elected as president from 1991 to 1997 and then serving as vice-president until 2012. As well as his work within the Area, David also served the Ramblers at a national level, taking on the role of Chair of the National Executive Committee and subsequently being elected as vice-president.

His last public appearance was at the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Cleveland Way, which was particularly poignant as he had attended the launch of the route back in 1969. David's life was commemorated on 21 September 2019 with a Memorial Meeting that was held at the Friargate Quaker Meeting House in York.

Walks programme and events

This year, in winter 2018/19 and summer 2019, we had 634 walks published in the 'Programme and Events' booklets: 284 in the Winter Programme and 350 in the Summer Programme, plus an additional 13 walks on Coach Rambles not published on Ramblers Walks Finder. This is an increase of 13 walks on the previous year. All 634 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 has had some take up by Group volunteers becoming Group Walks Editors to post pre walk information and walk amendments

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

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, on Area and Group websites, social media and individual email to group members.

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.

If severe weather is forecast, it is each walker's responsibility to check the Walks Finder, Area and Group websites and social media 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.*

Where walks involve public transport, times must be verified before starting out.

Geoff Richardson



Footpath report: York and North Yorkshire

I am available for advice and consultation if I can be of any help to our 3 local groups, each with their own experienced footpath secretaries. We usually all attend the useful twice yearly NYCC Countryside Access Service User Group Liaison Meetings, where we meet ramblers from other areas, some other walking groups, horse riders and landowner groups.

Scarborough Group have their own volunteer work group, working mainly in their part of the National Park, keeping on top of most things. York and Ryedale Groups continue with their parish path surveys. Simon Lyle has taken over the task of supporting both these schemes and I would like to thank those previously involved with their administration and of course the Surveyors that make it possible.

There are outstanding Issues on almost half the NYCC Public Right Of Way Network, around 2/3 of which are the responsibility of the landowner, with 11% obstructed. Their new procedures seem to be producing a slight improvement in the resolution rate for new Issues, with old Issues still being ignored unless they are reported again.

NYCC are still looking into more modern methods to allow the public to report Issues (with photos) from mobile devices to speed up work on processing and hopefully resolving Issues raised. It should also enable us to follow up on earlier Issues that are on their Management System (CAMS), either directly by ourselves or using their new Path Keeper scheme. Please report any Issue you come across as they will definitely not be resolved by themselves – I feel certain you should be able to report at least one Issue on most of your visits to the countryside and let your local group know of any progress you make. Take some secateurs and tell NYCC or City of York Council of items you have had to cut back to get through easily.

The essential re-digitisation of the NYCC Definitive Map is progressing slowly. This is taking up staff time that could be used for claims for adding paths to the Map dating back over 45 years. They have started to process the less contentious recent applications to divert or close paths, but this does not help with their huge backlog.

Russell Varley has been making some progress on York's Definitive Map work. There is to be a Public Inquiry in March 2020 into the ancient path from Acomb to Rufforth that that we first raised 43 years ago with NYCC. Graham Cheyne reported CYC to the Local Government Ombudsman regarding the expected time taken to resolve both old and new changes to the Definitive Map. This has resulted in changes to their procedures and a decision to start progressing 18 applications dating back over 20 years before March 2020.

David Nunns

Footpath report: East Riding and Hull

This last year has been very quiet on footpath matters in the East Yorkshire area. Just a few footpath issues have appeared, mostly involving making a few minor alterations to a couple of footpaths that have had issues with bridges that have become unsafe and needed a few minor diversions. Included in this is a couple of footpaths that have been diverted to run around field edges rather than diagonally across them.

The two major issues that have arisen for consultation is firstly Hornsea Project 4 Wind Turbine project. This is in the pre-application stage, so it has a long way to go before the actual development starts. The aim is to link the turbines by a cable between landfall near Barmston to a new substation by the current one at Cottingham. The route will naturally cross many of our footpaths although they will all be made good once finished. There will be some footpath diversion work that needs undertaking close to the current substation, but both Peter Ayling and Chris Prince are keeping an eye on this part of the project.

The second major project is the Outstrays to Skeffling Managed Realignment of which details are below. The proposals include amongst other matters a new bridleway as well as realignment of some footpaths.

"The Outstrays to Skeffling Managed Realignment Scheme is a joint initiative proposed by the Environment Agency (EA) and Associated British Ports (ABP) to create over 400 hectares (988 acres) of new mudflats and saltmarsh on the north bank of the Humber estuary, near Skeffling. 'Managed realignment' means altering the location of existing flood defences. In the case of Skeffling, this involves moving the embankment further inland to establish a new line of defence and then breaching the old embankment so that sea water can enter through the breach to facilitate the creation of intertidal habitat"

We have a good relationship with the East Yorkshire Council team, for which I am grateful. They keep me fully informed of proposed changes and we do give feedback to them when requested. Our Area Footpath Committee is made up of Ray Wallis (Chair), myself (Secretary), Peter Ayling, Tony Corrigan and Chris Prince.

Matthew Harrison



Membership report

Membership Figures from 30 September 2018 to 30 September 2019

There were 1536 members on 30 September 2019 (1556 on 30 September 2018).

The number of new members in the period 30 September 2018 to 30 September 2019 was 195, compared with 176 in the previous year.

Membership figures by group

Group	1 Oct 2018	30 Sept 2019	Change
ER01 Beverley	295	279	-16
ER03 Hull & Holderness	168	161	-7
ER04 Ryedale	141	146	+5
ER05 Scarborough	101	103	+2
ER06 Pocklington	169	179	+10
ER07 York	490	485	-5
ER09 Howden & Goole	63	58	-5
ER50 GYBO	79	78	-1
ER96 unattached members	50	47	-3

The total membership living in England, Scotland, Wales and Overseas on 30 September 2019 was 102,038 (102,818 on 30 September 2018), a reduction of 0.75%.

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

Patrinton 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

Power and energy

Electricity from the large Hornsea Four Offshore Wind Farm will be brought ashore at Barmston to an enlarged substation north of Cottingham – the Countryside Team and East Riding & Hull Footpath Officer have participated in consultations over several footpaths and possibly ancient woodlands: Chris Prince made our written response. The government might reintroduce subsidies for onshore wind farms, leading inexorably to new applications.

Because of safety issues over fracking (fracturing shale rock with water, chemicals and sand under pressure to release gas and oil), the government has suspended all fracking, until there is scientific evidence for its safety.

Highways England's scheme for A63 in Hull Old Town

An elegant footbridge at Princes Quay is now in place. The Area and the Hull Group continue to argue for another more modest bridge or perhaps a pedestrian crossing to the east at Market Place (also proposed by Hull City Council), which would provide a second more pedestrian-friendly link between the north and south areas of the Old Town. We have made representations to the Examining Authority, and this issue may be reconsidered.

Other planning issues

We objected to: (i) an indoor rearing shed for a thousand pigs on the Wolds at Cottam north of Driffield near a footpath, because there were three similar sheds nearby; (ii) the second prison in the small village of Full Sutton near Stamford Bridge, because of its overbearing size and effect on the Minster Way; (iii) the felling of 25 semi-mature trees on ERYC land near Hull for a supermarket car park, without adequate evidence of need or adequate replacement of trees. All applications were approved by ERYC planning committees, in the case of Full Sutton after 3,000 objections, but as a resident near one of these sites wrote, "Good to know you and your Association care about protecting the countryside." The recently-approved housing development at Long Lane Driffield was referred to Ramblers Central Office as a case study on use of a bridleway by vehicles.

National countryside policy

The government's Glover Review of national parks and trails, and AONBs issued its interim report with 27 recommendations in July 2019. One commentator wrote is that it is strong on vision, weak on analysis, and disappointing on nature: We await the full report.

Climate change

Ramblers GB is formulating its policy on this most pressing of issues. I raised it at the 50th Meeting of the European Ramblers Association in Stuttgart in October whilst attending as a visitor, and the committee agreed to debate the issues after the Swedish delegate pressed hard.

Countryside team

Perhaps we should be renamed "Environment Team". Thanks to Bob Dealey (Beverley) Tony Corrigan (Pocklington), Chris Prince (Beverley), Steve Lack (Hull & Holderness) and others, without whose efforts countryside and environment protection would be less effective.

Peter Ayling

Area News

The number of editions of Area News produced per year has now reduced to two- March & September, as there are now only two mailshots per year to coincide with the circulation of the six monthly Area Walks Booklet.

Items included information about Area and group events, coach outings, details of the Area camping weekend, footpath issues and photos of Ramblers enjoying walks in all weathers. The 2020 AGM calling notice appeared in the September edition.

My sincere thanks to all those who have contributed articles, news items and photos; special thanks to Peter Ayling for proof reading both editions.

Marian Thomas



Area Website

www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk

Our Area website is well used by members and importantly, looked at by those interested in joining Ramblers. Support from most groups is negligible, save for photographs from Pocklington. Otherwise, all featured items of interest are initiated by the webmaster.

Between 1 October 2018 and 30 September 2019 there were about 30,000 visits to the site with 104,000 pages viewed. The latter is a reduction on previous years, due to page restructuring, whereby several albums of photographs are now displayed on a single page.

Main use by members continues to be access to the calendar of Led Walks, using the mapping facility and start points, post code/grid reference converter and photograph albums.

Created 9 years ago, the website has undergone a number of upgrades enabling it to provide an effective window on our Area's activities.

Tony Corrigan



Treasurer's report

Financial year ending 30 September 2019

A breakdown of receipts and expenditure for the year ending 30 September 2019 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 £710.11 this year.

Member mailshots continue to be the major expense for our Area. The total cost of member mailshots this year was £3,379.31. That figure comprises the printing cost of two newsletters, two walks programmes and the Annual Report, together with postage costs of £1,288.31. Last year mailshots cost £4,834.66. The main reason for the reduction is that there were three newsletters last year and only two this year, saving on printing and postage. Nevertheless, as member mailshots continue to be a substantial proportion of Area spend members are requested to consider changing to electronic communication.

There is an additional fund this year which comes from the bequest from Dany Włodarczyk. This is shown as a Restricted fund as it is to be used for promotional material for the Area. A large proportion of this fund has already been spent leaving a balance of £96.86.

The Area ended the year with a reduced reserve of £3,942.79; that is £1,898.98 down on the figure at the start of the year. CO guidance is that the reserve figure should be maintained at a range of between 40–100% of annual expenditure. The annual expenditure for the year was £6,946.46 and the reserve figure represents 56.8% of annual expenditure. This has changed the position on the previous year when the reserve figure was 80% of annual expenditure.

The Area has no cash in hand, loans or investments but does have stock valued at £1,746.41.

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

Sam Borman

Accounts for year to 30 September 2019

Main account	2018/19	2017/18
Receipts	6,670.63	3,312.43
Funding from CO	5,960.52	2,296.64
Publications/Badges sales	710.11	1,015.79
Expenditure	8,569.61	7,301.97
Walks Programmes	935.16	864.84
Printing	930.00	850.00
Postage	5.16	14.84
Walk leader training	65.57	100.68
Walks related	121.24	0.00
Newsletters and Publicity	3,703.71	3,060.00
Printing	731.00	844.00
Postage	1,282.71	1,909.82
Countryfile Live budget	1,500.00	0.00
Other	190.00	306.18
Publication/Goods costs	238.80	0.00
Campaigns and Casework	235.16	474.88
Group Funding	1,078.51	1,180.71
Group Other	544.64	0.00
Meetings (including AGM)	1,601.22	1,575.86
Printing – Annual Report	585.00	1,148.00
Other	1,016.22	427.86
Admin/Other	45.60	45.00
Subscription	45.00	45.00
Admin costs	0.60	0.00
MOVEMENT IN FUNDS +/-	-1,898.98	-3,974.54
Restricted account	2018/19	2017/18
Receipts	610.16	0
Bequest from Dany Włodarczyk	610.16	0
Expenditure	513.30	0
EYDA promotional material	513.30	0
MOVEMENT IN FUNDS +/-	96.86	0

Statement of affairs

	2018/19	2017/18
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	1,746.41	1,814.12
Balance at Unity Bank	4,039.65	5,841.77
Total Current Assets	5,786.06	7,655.89
Accumulated Fund		
At start of year	5,841.77	9,816.31
Excess/Deficit of income over payments	-1,802.12	-3,974.54
	4,039.65	5,841.77

The above reflects the position on receipts and payments basis.



Access report

Coastal Access: Easington to Filey Brigg

On 28 February 2018, Natural England (NE) submitted a report to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs setting out their proposals. Disappointingly, BBC Radio Humberside's interview with our President broadcast on 31 September 2019, concerning the news, obtained by the BBC, that the Secretary of State had approved NE's proposal, was based on the false information. Jim Milner (England Coast Path – NE Senior Advisor Skegness to the Scottish Border) has confirmed that the proposals are still sat with the Secretary of State despite the fact that NE had been hopeful of an approval in November. The election, however, meant that no announcements could be made about any of the ECP (Expert Committee on Pesticides) proposals until after the new government is formed. Therefore it seems unlikely that the access authority will be able to complete the work needed by October 2020 as suggested in the radio interview

Tom Halstead



Group reports

Beverley Group

The Beverley Group provided a total of 56 walking events for the East Yorkshire and Derwent Area combined schedule, 32 from April to September 2019 and 24 from October to March 2019/20. The total distance of led walks for both programmes is 417 miles using a stalwart core of just 15 leaders. The Group was pleased to add two new leaders to the winter schedule this year but require a few more volunteers if our weekly requirements are to be consistently filled.

In April, a well-attended and successful Coach Ramble to Saltaire Mill, Shipley, West Yorkshire took place assisted by enthusiastic members of Baildon Walkers are Welcome who led two walks of 10 miles and 6 miles around the scenic area. Also, the shorter walk, at its conclusion, had the benefit of a costumed guide who toured the Victorian Model Village and spoke of its former characters.

Of some concern is group membership, which has declined by 18% over the last 4 years and currently stands at 279. We have had several unfilled vacancies on our committee, including a Publicity Officer for the same period.

Sue Henry, organised a Christmas lunch at the Beverley Arms, which 20 members attended and in September Bob Dealey and Chris Prince organised our first group holiday in Swale Dale, which was enjoyed by 10 members. Joe Neal arranged a meal at Hitchcock's vegetarian restaurant in Hull in October for 16 members. It is hoped that with our group E-mail and face book page, we might involve more members in these activities in future.

The Path Minders group has been very busy and provided East Riding of Yorkshire Council with 220 hours of free, increasingly skilled labour! In addition to the usual tasks of cutting back vegetation and marking of footpaths, we have constructed several 3 Metre bridges, laid Tarmac, and constructed metal and wooden kissing gates.

Joe Neal

Get Your Boots On

2019 has been a good year for the group. The walk calendar has been busy with over 40 walks, including the entire Cleveland Way in 9 sections over the summer. We re-started our summer evening walks program, which has proved popular for new walkers, and we had two weekends away – Glen Nevis in Scotland for Easter, and Keswick in the Lake District in October.

We've updated our Facebook page and website and are now putting all our walks on the Ramblers Walks Finder website, which makes them easier for new members to find. We've also publicised the group using flyers, business cards, and Facebook. The group membership has remained steady this year with 76 members.

In August some of our members helped out at the Countryfile Live event at Castle Howard, manning the Ramblers stall publicising the organisation and the work it does.

The annual National Young Ramblers event was held in Cambridge this year and was attended by several of our members, and GYBO will be hosting the event in York on 5-7 June 2020.

Karen Travis

Howden and Goole Group

Although the smallest group in the Area, we are a very friendly group. We have continued with the optional practice of car-sharing to the start of our walks, by meeting up first at either Howden or Goole. This seems to work well for our group – it is environmentally friendly and a good way to get to know your fellow walkers.

This has been another active year for the group, we organised 34 walks, 16 of which were on a Sunday, there were 8 Saturday walks, 6 mid-week walks, plus 4 shorter summer evening walks. However we are very short of walk leaders, with only 9 different members of our group leading walks throughout the year. We are grateful to members from other groups who have led walks for us. Walks have varied from 4 to 10 miles, which we hope provides something for everyone.

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 through a variety of lovely countryside.

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 & travel talk at the Boothferry Golf Club. We had a stall at the Goole Hobbies Exhibition in March and in September our group led a walk from Hotham for the Yorkshire Wolds Walking Festival. 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

Our Group was honoured by Ordnance Survey this year – Sunk Island in South Holderness is deemed to be the least popular map for walkers using OS Online mapping! This was big enough news to feature on BBC Radio Humberside.

Overall membership remains about 170 after a big increase last year. The bank balance at end of year was £165.24

Summer walks programme offered 23 walks, of which seven were in the evening. Winter 2019/20 programme has a further 15. Although attendance on walks is healthy – typically 15–20 people turning up - this is a reduction in the total number of walks, mainly because of a lack of volunteer walk leaders. We offer a variety of walks, normally 7–10 miles at the weekend and 4–6 miles in the evening. We have tried a few variations, including a mindful and meditative walk through Nut Wood, a story walk round Hull old town, and a Saturday afternoon walk from Hornsea. All attracted 16–17 people so we will repeat these.

We continue to monitor plans for “improving” the A63 Castle Street in Hull city centre, particularly to ensure that improvements are made for walkers as well as motor vehicles. We look forward to development of the new long distance trail England Coast Path, which has been planned as far as Spurn. A route remains to be set between Kilnsea and Hessle, which may well pass through Sunk Island. If that happens, Sunk Island will become a well-trodden link between the two iconic locations of Spurn Point and the Humber Bridge.

Steve Lack



Pocklington Group

Membership and Data Protection

There has been an increase in overall membership in our group, from 169 last year at 30 September 2018 to 179 members at the same date in 2019.

We have contacted many members on an individual basis to establish whether their preferences for receiving information are in accordance with their wishes. Almost 90% of our members can be reached by email and we consider that our group is compliant with GDPR requirements.

Walks Programme

It is always a struggle, but thanks to those prepared to lead walks, we have once again managed to provide a full programme of walks. We are always looking for members to 'step forward' and lead walks for the group.

Footpath Maintenance Team

The team remains at 10 members, this being adequate to provide a group of at least 5 volunteers to undertake tasks. During the year 175 hours of work have been completed, comprising removal of undergrowth, installation and resetting of way mark posts plus bridge maintenance work. Many of the tasks involved attention to the Yorkshire Wolds Way and Minster Way routes.

Highlights of the Year

- VHEY (Visit Hull and East Yorkshire) offered our group vacant spaces on their coach to the finish point of the 500th Anniversary of the Kiplingcotes Derby, followed by a walk back to Market Weighton.
- There was a Memorial Walk for Brian Billings in May that was well supported by his family and many friends from the group. Brian was one of the founder members of Pocklington Ramblers, and contributed so much to the group over the years, as a prolific Walk Leader, a Committee Member and a good friend to many members.
- Our six-day holiday to Keswick in May was a big success, with fine weather and an extensive choice of walks, enjoyed by 62 members and friends.
- Our fully booked coach ramble to Haworth took place in fine weather in June. There was a literary theme to the day, with three guided walks followed by an excellent meal in Haworth.
- For VHEY's Walking & Outdoors Festival-September 2019, our group organised two longer trails, the Minster Way and the Headland Way. Ray Wallis, the author of the

Minster way, presented certificates for the 31 people who completed the Minster Way. Both trails proved to be popular and enjoyable events.

Martin Hill

Ryedale Group

The membership of the group at September 2019 has increased by 5 from the same time last year to 146. Although we have lost some members others have joined, either new to the group or as transfers.

The walks on Sundays have been well attended and most weekends have been covered. Thanks go to all those who lead walks but there is always a space for new leaders in the programme. It was very disappointing to have to cancel the Coach Ramble due to lack of support; we hope for a better show of support in 2020.

Once again the social events have proved popular with the walk before Christmas followed by mince pies and the New Year Lunch well attended. A tea party was also arranged for a longstanding member of the Group reaching a significant '0' birthday.

There have been changes to the Committee with Pat Donnor, John Harland and Harry Whitehouse standing down at the coming AGM. Our thanks go to them for all the hard work they have given over many years, contributing to the success of the Group. However we have been pleased to welcome Simon Lyle and Nick Summerton to the Committee to cover footpaths and re-establish the group website. The role of Social Secretary is still to be filled.

Several members staffed the Area stall at the Countryfile Live event in August and were also on the Planning Committee for an event which proved successful. Thanks go to all involved in any way in making the walks and functions enjoyable as we look forward to another year.

Jane Preston

Scarborough Group

At our 2018 AGM, Lisa Crozier, who had been organising meals out for the group for over 10 years, decided it was time for a change, so our group Christmas dinner at the Falcon Inn was Lisa's swansong. All the regular diners appreciate all that Lisa has done over the years. As nobody stepped forward to take over, members have taken it in turn to organise a monthly meal out this year under the direction of Margie Atkinson, who drew up the year's programme.

Our 2018 Christmas celebrations were completed when Les and Margie Atkinson led a walk, which finished at their cottage with mince pies, mulled wine, brandy butter etc.

Our Rambles Organiser, Anne Thornton, has provided the group with a full programme during 2019, with a ramble being staged on most Sundays. Thanks to all the leaders who have planned, pre-walked and finally led the walks. Unfortunately, Anne was unable to put on the usual summer programme of evening walks this year owing to insufficient leaders coming forward.

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. Members who are interested should contact Les, who will then add them to our list of volunteers to be covered by the RA's insurance.

Our webmaster, Harry Whitehouse, who started our group website over 10 years ago, announced at the 2018 AGM that he would like to step down, but was willing to stay on and train another volunteer to take the task on. In the absence of a volunteer to take over, Harry has been very patiently tutoring the group's chairman, Phil Trafford in the basics. We do hope someone else steps forward to fill this roll, which is so vital to any modern society and has been instrumental in recruiting new members to our group.

Group secretary Gary Malcolm's efforts have also been important in increasing our membership over the last few years. Unfortunately, Gary decided to resign at the end of this year, so as usual, the group needs more volunteers.

Several group members enjoyed the area camp at Kettlewell, which was again superbly organised by Scarborough members Wayne and Donna Dosedale. A great site at a great location with super walks and a smashing venue for the Saturday evening meal. Shame they forgot to arrange the weather this year, but practise makes perfect.

Finally, thanks are due to all the group officers not mentioned above, committee members and other volunteers, who have made 2019 another enjoyable rambling year.

Phil Trafford

York Group

York Group membership stood at 482 at the end of September 2019, slightly down from last year.

We are entering a new initiative in respect of Parish Path surveys. In addition to our Parish Path monitors, we are asking walk leaders to submit reports on the footpaths as they do their recces. Simon Lyle, who is now Parish Path Coordinator for both York and Ryedale Groups, has also been able to establish a working relationship with the Public Rights of Way Officer of NYCC, which will hopefully prove to be mutually beneficial.

We had two Coach Rambles this year, to Swaledale and to the East Coast. Both were very well attended and enjoyed, despite getting a good soaking at Staithes. The Public Transport Walks has now got a subsection, Public Transport Trail. This has been a recent innovation to satisfy walkers who would like slightly longer walks and includes the possibility of hiring minibuses when required.

Our Tuesday and Wednesday walks continue to attract good numbers, and the Tuesday pub walks are still popular. There have been a sufficient number of leaders to continue providing two Wednesday walks every second week, and to provide two leaders for the alternate week in case numbers call for a split. We have had many visitors from not only the Area but from other parts of the country as have the Amblers who have enjoyed 50 walks of between 6 and 8 miles over the last year with numbers averaging 20.

Sadly the York Group suffered the sudden sad loss of our Minutes Secretary and Newsletter Editor, Vivien Irish, soon after our February Committee Meeting. Vivien was an outstanding personality with a wide range of interests, and was an efficient and conscientious committee member. She will be sadly missed.

We are pleased that our two committee vacancies have been filled. Anne Parker is taking over the role of newsletter editor. Many thanks to Vivienne Taylor for producing the last two newsletters. Mike Norman will be our new webmaster, when he has been brought up to speed by Tom Halstead, who designed our new website, assisted by Geoff Richardson.

Following the success of last year's AGM, we will be repeating the format again this year. On 20 November 2019, we will be having a short walk followed by the AGM in Welburn Village Hall. We hope to match last year's attendance of 50 people. There will be a short presentation by the NYCC Public Rights of Way Officer, and a presentation of a Ramblers certificate of thanks to Ken Walker and Alan Clark in recognition of their many years support for the Amblers, which they helped to form.

Richard Bramall

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