



ramblers
at the heart of walking

East Yorkshire and
Derwent Area
Ramblers

Annual Report 2019-20



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:	Ann Laing
Minutes secretary:	Tony Corrigan
Independent examiner:	Emily Hunt

Group secretaries (as at 1 December 2020)

Beverley:	Joe Neal
Get Your Boots On:	Natalie Clarkson
Howden and Goole:	Marian Thomas
Hull and Holderness:	Elaine Tague
Pocklington:	Richard Primmer
Ryedale:	Position vacant (contact: Ann Laing)
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 2021 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 23 January 2020** online at www.zoom.us/j/95368111853.

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

Agenda

1. Attendance and apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Annual report for 2019–20
5. Financial statement – accounts for year ending 30 September 2020
6. Election of officers and council members

President	Vice-presidents	Chairman
Vice-chairman	Secretary	Treasurer
Area footpath secretaries	Minutes secretary	Environment 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 2021 General Council in Birmingham (17 April)
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, there will be talk by a Ramblers trustee.



Area Secretary's remarks

Well ... 2020, what can I say? It started so normally, although the Area Council has had to operate with a reduced number of members and has been without a Chair for more than two years. But in late March, as directed by Central Office, all walks and the majority of other activity was halted. During the summer, walks were permitted to restart under strict conditions and some groups did restart a limited walks programme, although this was curtailed again in the autumn.

Tom Halstead and Stephen Down were due to attend General Council, the Ramblers' national AGM in April, and we had our motion to respond to climate change selected for discussion, but the event was postponed. A short meeting was held online to cover the required business, and our motion was accepted by the board.

Stephen Down

Walks programme and events

The Winter 2019/20 was the last walks programme to be distributed and fulfilled until mid-March 2020 with 318 walks.

The Summer 2020 walks programme was printed but not distributed as the first national lockdown phase had commenced in March.



Later government relaxation of group numbers allowed areas and groups to develop ad-hoc walks on a social basis. Eventually the expansion to 30 persons conforming to Covid secure procedures allowed groups to publish walks on GWEM with weekly to monthly advance notice. Groups limited numbers to less than 30 or prepared for multiple leaders.

Not all groups published on GWEM with a mix of GWEM, ad-hoc social walks and private online publication. Many groups have appointed their own Group GWEM Walks Editor to publish their walks.

To date no planning for Winter 2020/21 or Summer 2021 future Area programme has been made.

Geoff Richardson

Footpath report: York and North Yorkshire

There has not been much to report on since the beginning of 2020, due to Covid-19. There have been reports to pass on to our Local Groups from the Ramblers. The Committee consists of myself, Doreen Felton, Nick Slater, Vera Silberberg and Simon Lyle.

Simon has been working on our Parish Paths Survey and will report separately on this Project. The Covid-19 guidance permits local path surveys and people have reported Issues on paths. Some landowners have discouraged such activity and some volunteers are wary of going out. To avoid any conflict with landowners, City of York decided not to survey Parish Paths this year.

Along with the Ramblers Lost Ways Project, we had previously asked people to look for the many paths in York & North Yorkshire that are not shown as Public Rights Of Way. There has been one success so far, with Marilyn Skelton successfully claiming Raskelf Lane in Easingwold as a Restricted Byway.

City of York Council have examined all the applications for path orders, making Orders in April. The next stage is sending the objected Orders to the Planning Inspectorate, so far sending 2. The Public Inquiry in March to consider the ancient byway from Acomb to Rufforth opened and adjourned until next June due to an objector's solicitor self-isolating with Covid-19. The new bridleway from Knapton to Rufforth, using the old cattle crossing under the Outer Ring Road has been completed and signed. Due to Covid-19 guidance it is being well used. The Path Order for the former Askham Fields Lane is still with the Planning Inspectorate, with the 'temporary' closure extended by a further year, due to Covid-19.

With the lack of an Environment sub-committee, we have had several consultations from Hambleton DC where planning applications may affect Paths. Most have a minor effect, but

I would hope NYCC would back our objection to a path at Oaklands, Huby. City of York consulted us on the Foss Storage Scheme at Strensall and the York Central Scheme. With the latter I had hoped to get an improvement to a small part of the riverside path that regularly floods, but the Council seem to ignore any consultation responses.

In the 6 months to April, little maintenance work was carried out by North Yorkshire in our Group area. Over 47% of their overall paths have unresolved Issues and 10% are obstructed. There were positive results from their new working practices in the first half of the year, with the number of outstanding path Issues reducing slightly. We await their Covid-affected October figures.

York's proposed Local Plan is still in limbo after 46 years. Will we ever get a Green Belt and safeguarded fingers of green land? Will another reorganisation defer matters even further?

Our usual plea to please report any old or new Issues you come across, using the Ramblers Path Watch app, email to rightsofway@york.gov.uk or paths@northyorks.gov.uk, preferably with 1 or 2 photos to clearly indicate the issue. Take secateurs with you to remove overgrowth around small bridges, gaps, gates and stiles before they become larger problems – also report what you have done.

David Nunns



Footpath report: East Riding and Hull

Although by normal standards this has been a quieter than normal year for investigations into footpath matters, strangely there are some big projects that are starting or will start this year in our area.

Many will know that the Wolds Way/Trans Pennine route between the Humber Bridge and North Ferriby has been, and still is shut, whilst improvements are made to the railway line embankment running close to the footpath. This is due to reopen shortly.

Although flood prevention work is being undertaken on the road leading to pub and lifeboat station, and under the Humber Bridge, first impressions appear that the footpath may well be closed. It is not however! Some have queried about the proposed Jocks Lodge to Skidby road improvement scheme and any effect it will have on our footpath network. I have seen the plans, and no footpath will be affected, and indeed proposals are that the current footpath crossing close to Skidby Mill which is a bit of a challenge crossing the A164 at one go will be improved to one with a central isle, so that will make crossing easier!

On the wind farm proposal front, Orsted in charge of running a pipeline from Barmston to close to the current electricity sub station near Cottingham are keeping us well informed of progress and indeed asking us for our comments on a regular basis.

Finally, driving down the A1079 between Beverley and Hull this week I note what looks like a massive building project is being undertaken for the Dogger Bank wind farm, which is due to become eventually the biggest off shore wind farm in the world! As such little information seems to be available, I'll keep you all informed of progress on this huge project.

Finally here's hoping 2021 will be a better year not just for walking!'

Matthew Harrison

Membership report

Membership figures from 30 September 2019 to 30 September 2020

There were 1465 active members on 30 September 2020 (1536 on 30 September 2019), plus 60 with payment pending who are not included in the figures below.

The number of new members in the period 30 September 2019 to 30 September 2020 was 177, compared with 195 and 176 in the previous two years.

Membership figures by group

Group	1 Oct 2019	30 Sept 2020	Change
ER01 Beverley	279	261	-18
ER03 Hull & Holderness	161	146	-15
ER04 Ryedale	146	137	-9
ER05 Scarborough	103	91	-12
ER06 Pocklington	179	170	-9
ER07 York	485	467	-18
ER09 Howden & Goole	58	57	-1
ER50 GYBO	78	93	+15
ER96 unattached members	47	43	-4

The total membership living in England, Scotland, Wales and Overseas on 30 September 2020 was 98,717 (102,038 on 30 September 2018), a reduction of 3.25%.

Ten 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, York HF Rambling Club, The Windmill Walkers, Ryedale Walking Group, and the Christian Walking Club.

Ann Laing

Area News

Two editions of Area News were planned for 2020 – in March and September to coincide with the two mailshots for circulation of the six-monthly Area Walks Booklet. The March edition was produced and sent to the printers in early March but on the day before the Area mailshot, Ramblers Central Office announced the suspension of all led walks and other Ramblers activities, due to the risk of spreading Covid-19 and the first lockdown followed. The printed March edition was not posted, but an updated electronic copy was emailed to members. There was no September edition produced as the Ramblers activities were only just starting back after lockdown.

Marian Thomas



Environment Report

Area motion on climate crisis for General Council April, 2020

The Area AGM in January 2020 passed a motion on the climate crisis, for submission to General Council at Bristol in April. However, GC was subsequently cancelled on account of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the motions will be discussed online on 19 November. The Trustees support our motion.

Power and energy

We are seeking clarification from the Hornsea Four offshore wind farm project about their vegetation surveys for the area affected by the projected electricity sub-station south of Beverley, where there are several footpaths. Such surveys may be legally required for large projects, especially for trees and hedges.

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

The pedestrian bridge over the A63 at Hull Marina is already in place but not yet open, and there will be a smaller pedestrian bridge to the west. We were concerned about the lack of a pedestrian bridge/crossing to the east of the Marina at Market Place. Some of Highways England's proposals for this scheme were rejected in September 2019 by the Examining Authority (HMI Peter Willows), but the Secretary of State approved the scheme in May 2020. Central Office advised us, after taking expert advice, that there were probably insufficient legal grounds for a Judicial Review of the Secretary of State's decision.

National Countryside Planning Policy

1. To assist in reducing net zero carbon levels in England by 2050, the government issued a discussion document in August that seeks to increase tree planting to 30,000 hectares per year by the creation of large forests, planting trees along urban streets and in urban parks, and by giving grants to farmers to plant on unproductive land. We supported the Ramblers response and asked for (i) promotion of open access by payments if necessary, (ii) an increase in stakeholder engagement, and (iii) planting of predominantly native woodland species.

2. We commented on CO's draft response in October to the government's Planning White Paper in August, which proposes fundamental changes to planning law. These include a reduction in time taken to deal with planning applications by up to a half, judging applications against predetermined criteria rather than case by case, and putting land into three categories: i) suitable for substantial building, ii) renewal areas suitable for some

development, and iii) areas under total protection We believe some of these proposals would weaken the planning system and make it easier for unscrupulous developers.

Local Planning

The Area and Hull & Holderness Group supported the Environment Agency's proposals in August for the Castlehill "Aquagreen" flood relief scheme at east Hull, which involves creation of rights of way and new habitats such as woods, ponds and reedbeds.

Area Environment team

I thank Tony Corrigan (Pocklington), Bob Dealey (Beverley), and Steve Lack (Hull & Holderness) for their valued participation and advice. AGM 2020 changed the term 'Countryside' to 'Environment', because Ramblers deal with all issues that adversely impact upon our environment. Groups are invited to consider a similar change.

Peter Ayling

Area Website

www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk

A consequence of Coronavirus restrictions on Led Walks was a slight dip in website traffic between April and July. Nevertheless, for the year there were almost twenty six thousand visits with two hundred and ninety thousand pages viewed.

The website served as a very useful communication medium alerting members to cancellation and later resumption of the Led Walks Programme.

Members continue to make use of mapping facilities.

Local and national items of interest continue to be featured, including Ramblers campaigns such as Don't Lose Your Way. Associated with claiming lost rights of way are links to view registers of applications held by local authorities.

Tony Corrigan

Treasurer's report

Financial year ending 30 September 2020

A breakdown of receipts and expenditure for the year ending 30 September 2020 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. The major contributors are Ray Wallis's Minster Way Booklet and Tom Halstead's Open Access Booklet. Product sales amounted to £563 this year.

This year is of course hugely different from other years with some big differences in expenditure. The main one is newsletters and publicity as we did not post information to our members in anywhere near the same numbers as previous years. This resulted in a reduction of this expenditure from £3,703.71 to £838.36. Another large difference is the cost of the AGM and the reason for this is that in the previous year we accounted for two AGMs as an advance was given for the 2020 AGM, as well as paying for the 2019 AGM.

As a result of this reduced expenditure the Area ended the year with an increased reserve of £9,056.22, which is £5,113.43 up 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. Our estimated expenditure for next year is £6,569.88 so our reserves are above 100%. To solve this problem we have requested a reduced budget from CO for this year and will monitor the situation, and may refuse some of the funds if we still have too high a reserve. This is not a bad problem to have but we must solve it.

The Area has no cash in hand, loans or investments but does have stock valued at £1,413.87 and 900 stamps with a value of £549.

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

Sam Borman



Restricted Account for period to 30 September 2020

Opening balance	£96.86
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Receipts
£0.00

Closing balance	£96.86
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Payments
£0.00

Main Account for period to 30 September 2020

Opening balance	£3,942.79
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	Receipts
Funding from CO	£7,732.72
From group	£1,744.64
Publications/badges sales	£563.00
TOTAL	£10,040.36

	Payments
Groups funding	£1,441.59
Groups other	£1,200.00
Walks programmes	£990.00
Walks related	£0.00
Walks leader training	£0.00
Newsletters and publicity	£838.36
Publication/goods costs	£17.98
Campaigns/casework	£55.00
Meetings (including AGM)	£339.00
Admin	£0.00
Other	£45.00
TOTAL	£4,926.93

Movement in funds	£5,113.43
Closing balance	£9,056.22

Restricted plus Main	£9,153.08
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Restricted Account for period to 30 September 2019

Opening balance	£0.00
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	Receipts
Bequest from Dany Włodarczyk	£610.16

Closing balance	£96.86
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	Payments
EYDA promotional material	£513.30

Main Account for period to 30 September 2019

Opening balance	£5,841.77
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	Receipts
Funding from CO	£5,960.52
From group	£0.00
Publications/badges sales	£710.11
TOTAL	£6,670.63

	Payments
Groups funding	£1,078.51
Groups other	£544.64
Walks programmes	£935.16
Walks related	£121.24
Walks leader training	£65.57
Newsletters and publicity	£3,703.71
Publication/goods costs	£238.80
Campaigns/casework	£235.16
Meetings (including AGM)	£1,601.22
Admin	£0.60
Other	£45.00
TOTAL	£8,569.61

Movement in funds	-£1,898.98
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Closing balance	£3,942.79
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Restricted plus Main	£4,039.65
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Group reports

Beverley Group

Our membership at 275 has held up well, despite, or as a result of Covid and is only down by a single member from the previous year's figure.

The lockdown severely affected our programme of led walks and meant our annual coach ramble had to be cancelled.

As of 1 November we have reinstated our programme of Sunday walks, with a mandatory booking system to limit them to 15 walkers. These unpredictable times make it impossible to publish walks more than a month in advance making it impossible to communicate with 47% of our membership who we are unable to reach with electronic mail shots.

All our walks are posted on the Ramblers, and East Yorkshire and Derwent Ramblers websites. We believe that all our walks should be as widely advertised as possible to share the physical and mental benefits of walking which we all enjoy, with potential new members.

16 members enjoyed a group holiday in the Peak District. We have booked with HF to stay in Church Stretton next October, and would encourage Ramblers from other groups to contact our secretary, Joe Neal if interested in joining us.



15 Path Minders continue to work every fortnight helping maintain the local network of footpaths. We have had a very satisfying time improving the canal side path to Wansford from Whinhill lock, for the Driffield Navigation Trust. This path is a permissive route, and we were joined by the Pocklington footpath team before lockdown, clearing the jungle that had made the path impassable, since it was originally cleared five years ago. As a result we received some welcome publicity in the local press. We are levelling the path in places, to avoid the danger of walkers slithering into the canal and are digging out tree roots, to enable the path to be cut with a mower twice a year so as the path does not deteriorate once more. Please come and enjoy this tranquil route in the spring and see what we have achieved.

Joe Neal

Get Your Boots On

Get Your Boots On had a fantastic start to the year, with a pretty full walks diary. We also had our first games afternoon on 15 February in Brigantes, this was a success and we had hoped to arrange more over the coming year.

2020 had looked like it would be a fantastic year for the group, then Monday 23 March happened and life was turned upside down for the next few months. During this time the group was fairly quiet being a walking group, our main reason for being was taken away overnight.

We had been excited to be selected to host the 2020 National Young Ramblers Weekend, which was booked in for June and we had a great programme of walks and events lined up, so it was very upsetting when we had to cancel the weekend – but we are optimistic that we will be able to resurrect the plans once we can safely hold big events like this again, and that the work we put in won't go to waste.

Thankfully around mid to late August the rules for organised outdoor exercise were increased to 30! We decided to limit our walks to 15, as unfortunately due to car sharing being out we didn't feel 30 cars turning up logistically would work. Our first eased lockdown walk took place on 23 August at Hutton Le Hole (risk assessment filled out), since then we have had a steady stream of walks in the diary, ranging from 6–15 attendees depending on what the walk leader decided.

Looking to the future is a little difficult at the moment. In the near future we will continue to put on walks for up to 15 as and when government rules allow. Further down the line we hope to resume organising weekends away and more social events. For socials in the more immediate future we hope to use the area Zoom licence, for virtual pub meets and

perhaps a quiz or too. We have also taken to setting photo challenges on our Facebook to engage our members, these have proven popular and we will continue these.

Karen Travis

Howden and Goole Group

This has been an unprecedented year for everyone; from November until the middle of March our group organised around 3 led walks per month as usual, these were enjoyable and quite well attended. Walking highlights included Ellerton & Aughton circular with autumn colours, our Christmas pub lunch walk, 7 miles from Holme-on-Spalding Moor, our traditional post-Christmas 8 miles walk from Howden with festive refreshments and the North Cave Wetlands walk.

By mid-February the H&G committee had planned the spring/summer walking programme from April until end of September, consisting of 21 walks, these were submitted to Area for publication in the spring/summer walks booklet. However on the day before the Area mailshot, Ramblers Central Office announced the suspension of all led walks and other Ramblers activities, due to the risk of spreading Covid-19 and first lockdown followed.

Once Ramblers Central Office announced that led group walks could re-start provided that safety protocols were followed to protect the health of members, our group organised two trial walks for a maximum of 15 people, with a booking system in place, these proved to be popular with near to full attendance and walkers felt safe. Our committee subsequently decided to restart a flexible programme of Covid-safe walks on a monthly basis, on the understanding that all walks were completed in compliance with Government guidelines for the prevention of the spread of Covid-19. The two walks organised for October were successful, with maximum attendance and three walks which were planned for November were booked up within two days of the details appearing on the Area website; unfortunately the second lockdown has meant that our November walks have been cancelled. We are hoping to roll out more Covid walks when this is permitted, however our priority must be to protect the health and wellbeing of our members.

Marian Thomas

Hull and Holderness Group

Walks

We started the year with a great deal of interest, rambles from January to March attracting between 40 and 60 walkers. Then Covid stopped everything. We are just starting to organise some walks at short notice, with booking essential, in October.

Membership

Membership of our group had fallen to 150 in July, down from around 170 in 2019. We hope numbers will pick up whenever we are able to offer a full walk programme again.

Budget

Balance of £160.84 at year end. Money mostly spent on publicity, and refreshments for last year's AGM.

Developments

Plans for the long distance trail England Coast Path in our area continue, with Filey Brigg to Easington agreed and due to open in late 2021. Easington to Humber Bridge is still being planned by the government agency Natural England.

Our demands for another footbridge across the A63 in Hull at Myton Bridge when the pedestrian crossing is closed, were rejected by Highways England and Hull City Council – despite being in the original plans. This would have connected Hull Old Town directly to the Trans Pennine Trail and England Coast Path. The alternative is a route underneath the bridge, which Ramblers and Hull Civic Society have pointed out is dark, damp and dangerous. The council have promised improvements to lighting and CCTV (but now they've unpromised CCTV...)



Committee

Thanks to group officers for all their hard work. If you're interested in getting involved as a committee member, or in other ways, eg leading walks or attending occasional Area Council meetings, do get in touch.

Steve Lack

Pocklington Group

The effect of Covid-19 on our Walks Programme

From 23 March the Walks Programme was cancelled due to 'lockdown'. From August the Ramblers allowed us to walk in larger groups of up to 30, and some groups have restarted group walks with various limits on the number of members.

One of the hardest decisions that we have made as a Committee, was not to resume Ramblers walks for our group. I did email members asking for views and 80% of those replying stated that they did not want to walk in groups of more than 6.

Many of our members have kept walking, but in small informal groups. The benefits of such an approach is that the risks associated with spreading infection is lessened when compared to the risks of walking in a larger group. Many of us are in the age group where the effects from catching the virus could be life changing for both ourselves and our families and friends. The current rapid rise in infection rates, as we enter a second wave, justifies our cautious approach. The Committee is keeping this position under constant review.

Walks Programme from October to cessation in March

There was a full programme of walks from October to the middle of March when lockdown abruptly ceased the programme. An additional short walks programme was added last year, between October and December, but attendance was disappointing.

Membership

There has been a small increase in overall membership in our group, from 179 last year at 30th September 2019 to 183 members at the same date in 2020.

Footpath Maintenance Team

Despite the effects of lockdown, the team managed a creditable 60 hours of work to be completed on the path network. Compliance with social distancing measures has of course naturally precluded many types of tasks to be undertaken.

First Aid Training – November 2019

We had provided two sessions of first aid training for Walks leaders in November. This course is the same one that the Ramblers had organised nationally with support from the People's Postcode Lottery. This excellent and informative course was delivered by St John Ambulance.

Cancellation of Events

Many of our events take place in the spring and summer. The Walks Programme for the Spring and Summer was of course, cancelled. As was our Coach Ramble to Wensleydale, our holidays to Buxton and Clapham, and the planned long distance walk (the Centenary Way), scheduled as part of the Wolds Walking Festival.

Martin Hill

Ryedale Group

Membership as at 30th September 2020 was 137 members (146 as of 30 September 2019) of these there were 12 new members (18 in 2019).

There had been great plans of the year which unfortunately had to be put on hold, the coach ramble to Ingleton being one of the casualties. The New Year's Lunch did go ahead and was enjoyed by all who attended. One event that did happen was a picnic where 29 walkers converged from all directions to an appointed outdoor location to eat a picnic lunch together. The walks programme over the winter period was fully covered and the Sunday walks have now restarted with limited numbers. The Group hosted the Area AGM in January in Welburn Village Hall, preceded by a walk around the Castle Howard Estate.

Twenty footpath issues have been reported to NYCC, mainly overgrown or blocked paths and a few broken stiles. Parish footpath monitoring is sparse with only half the parishes covered. Details of Ryedale walks were distributed to local publications, libraries and noticeboards. George Donnor, who has been Publicity Officer for many years, is standing down at the AGM. Thanks go to him for his consistent support of the Group through the years.

Committee meetings have had to change in format. Committee Members are now very conversant with Zoom. The Committee must be thanked for their efforts for without a Committee Ryedale Group would not be able to continue. Thanks must also go to those who have led walks and continue to do so through these unusual times.

Jane Preston

Scarborough Group

Following our AGM in November 2019, the group carried on normally until the pandemic lockdown at the end of March. Anne Thornton organised a group walk every Sunday led by various different leaders. As usual our final Sunday walk before Christmas terminated at Les and Margaret Atkinson's cottage where we all enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies etc. The group enjoyed a Christmas meal at the Coachman at Snainton, organised by Margaret Atkinson.

Although the new committee only held one meeting between the AGM and the start of lockdown, the group has still continued to function and group officers have been busy behind the scenes. Footpath officer Les Atkinson has continued dealing with complaints and consultations and has now restarted our volunteer work parties in the National Park in a Covid-secure fashion.

When led walks were allowed again, Anne restarted our programme. All our rambles now have to be pre-walked and risk assessed and participants have to pre-book a place. The committee decided to limit numbers to 10 on any walk. Thanks are due to all leaders who have submitted and led rambles under these conditions.

This year's AGM has been postponed until January and will be a virtual meeting. What will 2021 bring?

Phil Trafford



York Group

York Group membership stood at 478 at the end of September 2020, slightly down from last year.

The Covid restrictions on group walks during lockdown at least allowed most of our Parish footpath monitors to do their surveys. All parishes in our area except one are now covered. We had two Coach Rambles planned for this year, to the Peak District in May and to Malham in October were cancelled due the pandemic.

During the early stages of the Lockdown, everyone was restricted to their local area with no possibility of group walks. However as the lockdown eased somewhat, all our various sections managed to form small informal groups for private rambles. As the situation eased somewhat we were able to continue with slightly larger groups on a preregistering basis. This of course excluded the Public Transport walks, which have been unable to resume their activities. The walks have been advertised on the York website, but of course there is no advance programme of walks so that the walks secretaries can only organise leaders and routes a couple of weeks ahead.

We have managed to hold committee meetings via Zoom, and have recruited some new committee members. Our AGM will have been held on 18th November, also on Zoom.

Richard Bramall



Open access walks **North Yorkshire**

Ten walks across
the Moors & Wolds



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.