

East Yorkshire &
Derwent Area
Ramblers



Annual Report 2020–21



www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk

Officers and Area Council members

President:	Peter Ayling (standing down)
Vice-presidents:	Jack Bower, Roy Dresser, Ann Holt, John Jefferson, Ann Laing, David Nunns, Ray Wallis
Chair:	Roy Hunt
Secretary:	Marian Thomas
Treasurer:	Sam Borman
Footpath secretaries:	Matthew Harrison (Hull & East Yorkshire) David Nunns (York & North Yorkshire)
Walks programme:	Geoff Richardson (standing down)
Environment officer:	Peter Ayling
Access officer:	Tom Halstead
Communications officer:	Ann Laing
Area News editor:	Marian Thomas
Webmaster:	Tony Corrigan (standing down)
Membership secretary:	Ann Laing
Minutes secretary:	Tony Corrigan (standing down)
Independent examiner:	Emily Hunt

Group secretaries (as of 1 December 2021)

Beverley:	Joe Neal
Get Your Boots On:	Becky Clark
Howden and Goole:	Marian Thomas
Hull and Holderness:	Elaine Tague
Pocklington:	Richard Primmer
Ryedale:	Position vacant (contact: Ann Laing)
Scarborough:	Roger Crowther
York:	Vivienne Taylor

All officers and group secretaries can be contacted via the Area website, or for members without internet access by writing to the Area Secretary at 46 Boothgate Drive, Howden, East Yorkshire DN14 7EW.

Notice of the 2022 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 22nd January 2022** at the Poppleton Tithe Barn, Nether Poppleton, York YO26 6LF

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 2021 Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Annual report for 2020–21
5. Financial statement – accounts for year ending 30 September 2021
6. Election of officers and council members

President	Vice-presidents	Chair
Vice-chair	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 2 Area Delegates to 2022 General Council in Birmingham NEC (9th 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

Break for refreshments; after the formal meeting there will be talks by Ramblers trustee Ronnie Forbes & Malcolm Hodgson (National Trails) will discuss planned events to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Yorkshire Wolds Way.



Message from the Area Chair

I would like to thank all of our members for the support you have given to the Ramblers over the past twelve months. I give special thanks to Peter Ayling our President and long-term stalwart of our Area who is retiring at this AGM. We are also losing Tony Corrigan who has done a great job as our long term Webmaster and Area Minutes Secretary. Tony will still be focusing his energy on supporting Pocklington Ramblers activities and his work on the "Don't Lose Your Way campaign".

The past twelve months have been particularly challenging. Covid bought its pressures during full and partial lockdowns. Our Central Office kept us informed of how the Covid rules applied to our activities, for which we are grateful.

The lockdown periods posed particular challenges, both during and afterwards. We have lost a number of walk leaders who we were unable to replace when we returned to walking in groups. We are also aware that some private arrangements to walk together during partial lockdown are continuing.

There is some good news coming from Covid. There appears to be fairly consistent evidence that people have discovered walking and the benefits that accrue, are joining Ramblers Groups across the country. We need to ensure that we give our new members the experience they are looking for.

Our Groups have done a great job in resurrecting their activities post Covid. The Group AGMs I was invited to showed a resilience to fully recover their work.

So far it has not been possible to resurrect the six monthly printed walks booklet. We will make a decision on whether to continue with the booklet in 2022 based on feedback from our Groups. The concept of a rolling programme of walks has its advantages, but we know that the walks booklet is much appreciated by many walkers.

I returned to active participation in Ramblers in July when I was asked to take over again the role of Area Chair. I have noted a number of changes implemented at national level, which cause me concern for our future. At the 2016 General Council (our national AGM) the Board of Trustees were hopeful to implement significant changes to our way of working and our local constitutions. However these were comprehensively rejected by approximately 80% of the delegates. I am therefore surprised that the Board has seen fit to implement almost a carbon copy of those changes but without consultation and without changing our constitution.

Groups and Areas are the lifeblood that runs through the veins of our charity. Core to the success of Ramblers has been the work that we do to promote walking and to run the best walking programme in the UK and quite possibly Europe. It is also the work that we do to protect rights of way and indeed maintain them. This could not continue without the expertise and commitment of our local volunteers.

Our Area operates independently of Central Office, except in matters of finance. As Area Chair, I am elected by the Area members to whom I am responsible and my role is defined in our Area constitution. Basically the Board are implementing a management structure that will flow from our Chief Executive Officer down through the salaried employees and now will continue through to Area Chairs to Group Chairs and ultimately to all of our volunteers. In addition the Board has appended to our volunteer roles responsibilities that go far beyond what are included within our constitution and our locally defined role profiles.

I have to tell you that I have formally refused to operate within the management structure being implemented by our trustees. My reasons are as follows:

1. Quite frankly I will not accept being managed by any paid employee of Ramblers nor do I accept that I am the manager of the Area Council members and Group chairs. No other charity that I am aware of works in a way that a management structure extends from the CEO and through four levels of volunteers.
2. Within our Area and Groups we have never managed people. What we do is completely different. We work together in a cooperative way to manage tasks such as the creation of our walks programmes, our rights of way work and our footpath work.
3. I am concerned that the additional responsibilities being imposed by the Board's role profiles will make it far more difficult to recruit volunteers to our Area Council and Group committees, leading to abeyance in Areas and Groups across the country.

I am aware that a number of Area Committees are currently considering motions to General Council, to stop what I see as an intrusion on the way that we have worked for decades and runs counter to our constitution. If change is to be considered it must come about as a result of communication and consultation with those most affected. I have written to the Chair of Ramblers and our CEO, but they seem determined to plough on, without offering explanation of what they are doing or discussion.

Roy Hunt – Area Chair

Led Walks Programmes

From May onwards Groups cautiously resumed their led walks with short-term, flexible walking programmes and ad hoc arrangements. Group walks secretaries added their walks to the Ramblers walks manager (GWEM) adopting various procedures for booking walks and restricting the numbers allowed on a walk. By September there was no longer any requirement to limit places on a led walk and groups have continued with their rolling programmes of walks; some groups who are short of walk leaders can only plan walks a month or two ahead, whilst others have been able to plan a 6 months programme of walks.

The pandemic restraints still inhibit any long term planning of a 6 monthly walks programme printed booklet. This is the situation in early December 2021 and may well remain or deteriorate further through 2022. No Area coordination of walks is presently being planned for either printing or web posting. However the present ad hoc procedures where group are acting individually is completely unmonitored, and there have been some walk clashes- walks starting from the same place, at the same time. If a booking system is used, it is important to make sure that the booking process is fair, transparent and accessible. The new 'Walks Manager' application which is to replace GWEM early in 2022 is being advertised as more user friendly than GWEM.

If severe weather is forecast, it is each walker's responsibility to check the Ramblers Walks Finder or Area & Group websites and social media for information (or to phone a friend who can). The route and distance can be altered prior to or on the walk without notice, at the leader's discretion.

Geoff Richardson



Footpath Report: York and North Yorkshire

It has been another strange year, with various lockdowns and restrictions. Council Rights of Way staff and volunteers have been home working and meeting online by Zoom or Teams, being more active outside the 2 Lockdowns.

Simon Lyle has still been asking people to Survey Ryedale and York Group paths, and pushing for people to join the North Yorkshire Path Keepers Scheme, but it has not been as successful as we were hoping for, possibly due to members not wishing to antagonise landowners in view of some adverse media comments, with others finding different things to occupy their time.

People were encouraged to exercise and some Ramblers took the opportunity to do local path surveys, with an increased number of issues reported to NYCC & CYC. Follow up on the issues had to be done remotely by mobile phone and email, working well in many cases.

NYCC logged 2100 issues in the year to April and resolved 1800, with a backlog of 8100. Their Staff and Volunteers have been weeding out duplicate issues and old issues that had been resolved without their knowledge. There were still issues on over 46% of NY paths network, with around 10% obstructed.

Physical work on the ground was limited, but there have been some repairs and improvements. Well over half the issues are the duty of the landowner to resolve and the use of emails and mobile phones results in before and after photos being used to resolve many issues without the need to meet in person. Since taking over responsibility for unsurfaced unclassified roads from Highways, some maintenance work has been carried out.

There have been some new claims for possible missing paths in our area, mainly for Bridle Paths or Restricted Byways by horse riders, with very few from Ramblers or cyclists. Although there have been 3 claimed paths at Skelton (York).

With the death of Bill Hepple from York Hoboes, there are now very few people living, both individuals and members of Walking Groups, who helped the Ramblers with the Definitive Map processes in the 1950's for whom we should be eternally grateful.

Several Diversion Orders were progressed in Ryedale, but very few in Scarborough or York Group areas. North Yorkshire are not pro-active in asserting public rights in planning applications, so it is useful

that York Group are consulted by Hambleton DC on planning application that could affect paths and their comments resulted in some refusals or design changes, such as a case at Huby, where the proposed garage was moved to avoid the need to apply for a path diversion which the Group had said they would oppose.

In York the Council have published Orders for 10 of the 15 outstanding DMMO claims, with 4 being rejected after investigations. Whilst 1 or 2 have been confirmed, other Orders are with the Planning Inspectorate awaiting Public Inquiries in the next year or so.

The Inquiry for the old Byway from York to Rufforth has been deferred twice due to COVID, with the recent deferral at less than a week's notice and is now being arranged for next Spring. It all springs from a locked gate over 45 years ago!

The closure of Leeman Road by the NRM was approved by Planning Inspector, but he agreed with our request for improvements to the riverside path from s.106 York Central monies to reduce flooding events. He also said the daytime walkways agreement through the NRM (short cut to avoid walking through new path through the S yard) not fit for purpose, but any action was outside his powers.

Comments on the dualling of the York Outer Ring Road has brought some changes, such as the New Earswick – Wiggington path being diverted alongside the railway – which we had asked for many years ago, also signalled crossings at Wiggington Road and North Lane for non motorised users.

We are consulted by Network Rail on Level Crossing proposals. Some time ago they consulted on closing the Bishopthorpe level crossing and providing a bridge, but it only resulted in lights at the crossing. They are now proposing a bridge in one of 4 places at a cost of around £2-4M, of which we prefer one of the four.

The Trans Pennine Trail Members Group meeting was held by Teams this year and we were told the Selby – York Link was to be improved, with work starting in late 2021. The whole Trail was very well used during the COVID restrictions, with family groups and 2 – 6 friends exercising.

The forthcoming formation of a Unitary Authority for North Yorkshire may not auger well for Planning and Footpath work and allocation of work between different Ramblers' Groups – time for me to retire.

David Nunns

Footpath report: East Riding and Hull

Another year passes with no face-to-face meetings with the various authorities that we Ramblers like to contact and meet to discuss in person, rather than by zoom or phone. Hopefully this will ease in 2022. A quiet year on footpath matters, but already various matters are coming to a head.

With the on-going house building programme around our county continuing at pace, plus mainly industrial distribution centre buildings being erected at key sites, it is so important that we as Ramblers are kept informed of these developments and how they can possibly affect our rights of way. To be fair, the ERYC Countryside team do inform us pretty well of matters.

A recent develop is that Network Rail has arranged for Woodmansey FP41 to closed where it crosses Hull/Scarborough line, is to be closed.

There are various other long-term issues still on-going, mostly concerned with long standing obstructions, so maybe in 2022 we can resolve a few of them.

Matthew Harrison

Access Report

Easington to Filey Brigg

In August 2020 the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs approved Natural England's proposal for the stretch of the coast path between Easington and Filey Brigg. It looks like there were only minor modifications as a result of one or two of the objections. The link to the relevant documents is:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coastal-access-section-52-notice-for-easington-to-filey-brigg?utm_source=54515bd3-7e88-4303-b68f-ebbe8728dab5&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

The latest news is that work is underway to prepare the new stretch for public use. Owners and occupiers of the affected land are being contacted to discuss the design and location of any new infrastructure, which is needed, such as signs and gates. When preparations are complete, new access rights will come into force along the route and adjoining spreading room. No date for completion has been announced.

Humber Bridge to Easington

On 12 May 2021, Natural England submitted a set of reports (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-humber-bridge-to-easington>) to the Secretary of State for EFRA setting out proposals for improved access to the coast between the Humber Bridge and Easington. Once the Secretary of State has approved one or more of these reports, NE will start work with Hull City Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council on preparing the route for public use. Preparations are expected to be complete in 2022, when new access rights will be brought into force along the route and adjoining spreading room.

NE's proposals are in agreement with our 2015 proposals (<https://tinyurl.com/yg99fmbq>), apart from the stretch from the Saltend roundabout to Green Port Hull, which deviates from our route through the King George and Queen Alexandra docks (routes R02-02 to R2-04).

Tom Halstead



Environmental Report

Power and Energy

(i) Final consultation from the Hornsea Four offshore wind farm project, whose electricity will feed into the Grid at Creyke Beck transmission plant, south of Beverley: they have not responded to our written questions about the effect of this development on hedges and vegetation, which have statutory protection. The project is now with HM Inspectorate, and we may raise this issue.

(ii) Application for a large solar farm west of Creyke Beck, adjacent to the medieval drovers' road of Jillywood Lane and the ancient Birkhill Wood; it would result in this popular walking area between Crowle Park and Beverley Parks, with its open views and pleasant rural aspect, being transformed into a renewable energy industrial area. Normally Ramblers support solar farms, but we objected because this rural buffer between Hull and Beverley should be preserved.

Planning Applications

(i) We objected to a plan for an enormous Amazon distribution warehouse west of North Ferriby near Hull, on land designated as a 'Business Park' south of the A63, because it is close to the Yorkshire Wolds Way. Over 2,000 objections were submitted, but Officers' recommendation is for approval.

(ii) The new 'Murdoch Connection' footbridge across the A63 at the Hull Marina is an attractive feature in the Old Town. The second proposed pedestrian route in Highway England's scheme via an underpass next to the River Hull, offered in place of our preferred option of a modest bridge, seems to be closed at present.

National countryside policy

After many objections nationally, including from the Ramblers, the government is reported to be reconsidering its Planning White Paper that would reduce the amount of public and Local Authority consultation on planning applications.

Area motion on climate crisis submitted to General Council 2020

General Council 2020 was a Zoom meeting, so motions were referred to the Board of Trustees, who supported ours. At GC 2021, the Board of Trustees outlined a number of actions to implement the motion, including a possible group to monitor climate change, and recommended the motion be closed. This was accepted by GC 2021. ('Closure' means it will not be debated again, but action may continue.)

Area Environment team

Warm thanks to Bob Dealey (Beverley), Tony Corrigan (Pocklington), Steve Lack (Hull & Holderness) and Chris Prince (Beverley) for their valued participation.

PS Some progress was reported at the Cop26 climate conference in Glasgow in November, but global temperature will rise by a predicted 2.7 degrees without further action. As James Lovelock, originator of Gaia theory, has written, global heating and the destruction of nature – part of our environment – must be treated as one problem.

Peter Ayling



Membership report

Membership figures from 30 September 2020 to 30 September 2021

There were 1564 (1533 active plus 31 payment pending) members on 30 September 2021 (1525 on 30 September 2020), compared with 1552 on 29th February 2020 (pre-pandemic)

The number of new members in the period 30 September 2020 to 30 September 2021 was 218, compared with 177, 195 and 176 in the previous three years.

Membership figures by group

Group	30/09/2021 (including payment pending)	30/09/2020 (excluding payment pending)
ER01 Beverley	274	261
ER03 Hull & Holderness	181	146
ER04 Ryedale	148	137
ER05 Scarborough	115	91
ER06 Pocklington	177	170
ER07 York	442	467
ER09 Howden & Goole	73	57
ER50 GYBO	116	93
ER96 unattached members	38	43

The national membership on 30th September 2021 was 101,130, compared to 98,717 on 30th September 2020. A truer comparison may be the pre-Covid figure of 102,214 in 2019.

Nine 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, York HF Rambling Club, The Windmill Walkers, Ryedale Walking Group, Wheldrake Walking Club.

Ann Laing

Treasurer's Report year ending 30 September 2021

A breakdown of receipts and expenditure for the year ending 30 September 2021 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 £405.50 this year.

This year is of course hugely different from other years, with some big differences in both income and expenditure. The difference in income is because of us asking CO to stop payments to us from our original budget request, as we were not spending anything like the amounts we would normally do. The difference in expenditure is because we did not produce a printed walks programme and we printed and posted fewer newsletters. This resulted in a reduction of these expenditures from £1,828.36 to £402.48.

The Area ended the year with a decreased reserve of £8,419.21, that is £637.01 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. Our estimated expenditure for next year is £5,625, 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 £1,117.74.

The Restricted fund, which was a bequest from Dany Włodarczyk, is now closed. The remaining funds of £96.86 were donated to two local churches.

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 2021

Opening balance	£96.86
	Receipts
	£0.00
Closing balance	£0.00

Payments
£96.86

Main Account for period to 30 September 2021

Opening balance	£9,056.22
	Receipts
Funding from CO	£625.00
From group	£237.29
Publications/badges sales	£405.50
Other	£3.00
TOTAL	£1,270.79

	Payments
Groups funding	£547.92
Groups other	£299.90
Walks programmes	£0.00
Walks related	£195.80
Walks leader training	£29.56
Newsletters & publicity	£402.48
Publication/goods costs	£29.97
Campaigns/casework	£138.29
Meetings (including AGM)	£218.88
Admin	£0.00
Other	£45.00
TOTAL	£1,907.80

Movement in funds	-£637.01
Closing balance	£8,419.21

Restricted plus Main	£8,419.21
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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
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Closing balance	£9,056.22
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Restricted plus Main	£9,153.08
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Area Website

www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk

Website use has reflected Coronavirus restrictions on Ramblers activities. From October 2020 to March 2021 use was moderate but thereafter significantly increased, with over thirty thousand visits and three hundred and eighty thousand items opened to view.

The absence of a printed consolidated programme of walks has resulted in good use being made of the on line Walks Programme facility. Added route data and descriptions from some groups has been found very helpful for enquirers. Without question the website enables greater flexibility for creating and adjusting the Led Walks Programme.

Central Office advice and guidance throughout Coronavirus restrictions has been a constant live feature, providing a useful communication medium for members.

Having built the website in 2012 and maintained it as Webmaster since then, I shall be standing down from the role in January 2022.

Tony Corrigan

Area News

Two editions of Area News were produced this year, in January and September. The January edition was produced during the 3rd lockdown and acted as a reminder of the virtual Area AGM on 23rd January. The September edition showed that the led walks programme was back in full swing, with most groups contributing.

Copies of Area News were e-mailed to all members who had supplied an e-mail address, since both editions gave information about Area AGMs (considered a core interest by Central Office). For both editions around 260 copies were printed and posted to members who had not supplied an e-mail address.

My sincere thanks to all those who contributed articles, news items and photos.

Marian Thomas



Group Reports

Beverley Group

Beverley group membership of 276 has held up well despite Covid, and the limitations imposed on our programme of group led walks.

We have a full program of walks for Winter 2021, one for each Sunday – including Boxing Day. We are in the fortunate position to be able to offer this program to our members; as the walks booklet is not being printed, our walks will continue to be published on the website. Members must check that the walk is going ahead before setting off, things can change or the walk could be cancelled at short notice. A Beverley group coach ramble is booked for 15 May 2022, we will be walking in the Ripon area, 2 walks are planned a 11-miles and 7/8 miles.

We supported the Wolds Walking festival this year by providing a guided walk as well as a family treasure hunt along Beverley Beck. The path Minders team has had another busy year, with 33 mornings work and provided the East Riding of Yorkshire Council with 169 hours of free labour. We are most grateful to the area for a grant to enable us to install a finger post at Wansford Lock on the Driffield canal.

This year's group holiday in the Shropshire hills, was enjoyed by 19 members and another trip has been arranged for 20 people to visit Derwent Water.

Joe Neal

Get Your Boots On (GYBO)

Over the last year we have had 48 walks led by 14 different leaders, including a weekend away, which is really good considering that there were several months of the year when we were unable to hold group walks and our activities were limited to online socials.

When walks resumed in April, places had to be booked in advance, and numbers were tightly limited, but as restrictions were eased those numbers were increased and now most walks have no limits on numbers and no need to book. A big thank you to everyone who has led a walk or organised an event this year, especially the 3 people who led their first ever Ramblers walk, and to the committee who have worked hard to keep the group running in difficult circumstances.

Our membership numbers have risen by 30% over the last year, and there has been evidence that the increased interest in walking, especially during the various lockdowns, has led people to seek out walking

groups. We will be doing what we can to keep those new members interested and engaged as life returns to normal.

Becky Clark

Howden & Goole Group

It has been a difficult year due to the pandemic; our walks programme resumed in May and since then we have been able to organise and lead 22 walks, roughly 3 walks per month. Initially we really struggled to find walk leaders and still only have around 8; we are only able to plan walks a month or two ahead. We have enjoyed some great walks this year –along the banks of the Rivers Ouse, Derwent and Aire, Skipwith Common and the lovely East Yorkshire Wolds. Our membership is the highest it has ever been, currently 73, with 20 new members since October 2020.

The Group has agreed to take over the stewardship of the Howden 20 Footpath (a challenge footpath of 20 miles), which begins in Howden. The Goole Rambling Club, a coach-walking group affiliated to the Ramblers, who devised the route, wished to relinquish their role. Howden & Goole Group have agreed to take over responsibility for giving out certificates & badges, keeping records and monitoring the condition of the footpaths, posts and signs

Marian Thomas– secretary

Hull & Holderness Group

Walks resumed after lockdown in May 2021 and have been well attended since. Membership understandably dipped in 2020, but has picked up now to about 185, including more than thirty new members in the past year. Walks are very well attended by an average of about twenty people.

The long-awaited footbridge across the A63 Castle Street in Hull finally joined the city centre with the Marina, creating a pedestrianised route from Hull railway & bus stations to the Humber, Trans Pennine Trail and forthcoming England Coast Path. The route of the Coast Path has now been agreed south to Spurn and north to the Humber Bridge, and the last part joining Hessle and Spurn is currently being finalised. It will open up new walks to the east of Hull, especially in Sunk Island.

Steve Lack –Chair

Pocklington Group

It has not been an easy year for any social organisation with the constantly changing regulations around COVID 19 and especially responding to regulations about who may, or may not, meet with whom and in what sort of numbers and where! My view is that Pocklington Group has been extremely responsive to these changes, and I feel I can make this claim as much of this was in place before I took on the role of chair. Initially this was by informally putting people in touch with one another if they had no one to walk with and later, when permitted, bubble walks with 6 people were established.

We organised and published to all our members a six-month Walks programme from June to November 2021, including evening walks in the summer, and have established a new six-month walks programme from November 2021 until April 2022. These walks are on the Rambler's website to ensure that they are accessible to all. The main walks programme was coordinated by Tony Ashbridge and the evening programme of walks was organised by David and Evelyn Archer.

In early 2021, and once we had decided that we would attempt to develop a full six-month Walks Programme, we held a zoom discussion group with established and aspiring walks leaders to talk through issues such as booking systems, acceptable numbers on walks, parking at the start and the impact of our walks on local communities.

We are extremely grateful to all the Walks Leaders who responded and without whom our planned walks programme would not have been possible. Our thanks also go to those who booked onto these walks and who showed great discipline by not booking to go onto a walk until the date the walk appeared on the Ramblers Website for every Rambler to see and potentially book. We did note some people were so eager to book onto a walk and that they sent emails before dawn to secure a place on the walk! Restraint and enthusiasm, a fantastic combination and given the circumstances one to be applauded.

We also tried to keep members together through a social event on zoom, when Andrew Frankland-Barber hosted a quiz evening for members in the middle of April and approximately 20 members joined us for that evening. Pocklington Ramblers also supported the Ramblers stand at the Driffield Show, which this year was a two-day event.

Tony Corrigan was part of a working group formed from representatives of Driffield Council and an officer from East Riding of Yorkshire Countryside Access Team to establish a new long-distance route the Wold Rangers Way. This route is 43 miles long but is also broken down into a number of shorter routes and these were launched on the 7th

August. A great deal of work went into this route before the launch and Pocklington Ramblers were involved in the planning, preparation, and launch of the route through the footpath team and by providing walk leaders. Thank you to all involved in this initiative, it represents a tremendous achievement.

Martin Hill organised another excellent Coach Ramble this year to the Yorkshire Dales, which was well supported. Participants praised the choice of walks and the evening meal. Martin has been successfully organising our Coach Rambles for 10 years and he has decided that this year's will be his Swansong. The positive feedback is a fitting testimony to the appreciation of members for Martin's hard work.

Pocklington Ramblers once again supported the Visit Hull and East Riding Walking Festival by providing walk leaders for the long-distance walk the *Centenary Way* from Filey to York and also leaders for at least three other walks on the programme.

At the AGM in November 2021 the existing Committee was reinstated with the addition of Sarah Anderson. Perhaps unusually Pocklington have two Committee Members appointed 'without portfolio' with the aim of increasing representation and diversity.

Our Path Maintenance Team under the leadership of Tony Corrigan has undertaken a large amount of work to keep our footpaths in excellent condition. The work of this group is vital to the ethos of Ramblers and one that is often overlooked as it is quietly and efficiently carried out in the background. The launch of the Wold Rangers Way is a testimony to their diligence.

Kate Plumb- Chair



Ryedale Group

On behalf of the group, may I say how sorry we are to have lost our dear friend Terry Strickland earlier this year. He was the backbone of our Group and has been deeply missed by all who knew him. Ann, Simon and I were determined to keep Ryedale group going in his memory.

I am very grateful to Ian Gibbs and Jane Preston who answered our call for help and joined the committee at short notice. Ian has been treasurer and Jane has organised all the walks and found leaders. Without walk leaders we are nothing and I am so pleased so many of you have come forward to lead.

Hopefully group walking is returning to our 'new normal'. During the lockdown last year we managed two social picnics, despite the weather and even managed to have our mince pies in December. I know many members walked in bubbles before returning to our group walks.

As soon as it was possible we began Sunday walks with booking and once again we now have a full programme of open walks. The monthly shorter, social walks have been introduced and have attracted a new set of walkers, some of whom are now members.

We have been working with Ryedale District Council to check 27 local walks as part of the Visit Ryedale project. Many hands have made light work and this task is almost complete.

Instead of a coach ramble we organised a day of walking followed by afternoon teas in Goathland Village Hall. This event was subsidised by the group this year as we had surplus funds. We are in great need of more committee members so please do consider joining us.
Penny Hudson- Chair

Scarborough Group

The group put on a programme of walks subject to Covid restrictions during the year. However Covid has affected the operation of the group and particularly since the January to March 2021 lockdown, we have suffered from some low attendances and a shortage of leaders. In the autumn of 2021 there were a number of weeks where there were no walks put on by our group. To address this issue, the committee have made attempts to connect with past leaders and are seeking to increase the number of new leaders.

However our membership has increased during the year, being 91 on 1st October 2020 and 112 a year later, a net gain of 21 members. We have made efforts to reach out to our members to find out what they want from our group and to encourage members to come on walks; as with many

clubs and societies, the active membership is a relatively small proportion of the total membership.

During the year, the social programme of meals out has continued to be well attended and a successful garden party/committee meeting was held in the garden of a committee member during the summer.

We continue to give assistance to the North York Moors National Park. Working parties to clear footpaths etc. took place in every month except during the third national lockdown from January to March 2021. In addition, we assisted the National Park in the biennial surveys carried out in accordance with established BVPI (best value performance indicator) standards with 12 volunteers from Scarborough and 2 from Ryedale Group taking part.

We thank all the committee and walks leaders for their efforts to hold the group together this year and hope for a better year in 2022.

Gary Malcolm



York Group

The York Group's aim is to provide a programme of walks on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays along the many miles of footpaths in the Vale of York and Howardian Hills, as well as the chalk hills and dry valleys of the Wolds, the heather clad North York Moors, the splendours of the Yorkshire coast, and the limestone Dales & millstone grit hills to the west.

During the pandemic, when outdoor exercise was extended to led group walks, the Wednesday group successfully planned a walk every week by using Track and Trace along with Risk Assessments and limiting numbers to enable the group to walk up to a maximum of 30, and is now back to a normal walking programme, with the exception that walks are now being listed on the Area website rather than in the Area walk's booklet. The Tuesday group, the Amblers and the Public Transport Group are also successfully back to organised walks, although some groups are restricting numbers through a booking system. A coach ramble was also organised to the Bakewell in September of this year and enjoyed by all.

The York Group membership at this time last year (November 2020) stood at 485, and to date we have 445 members, which includes 31 new members joining within this period, making a loss of 40 members for the year. We can only presume that the reason for this drop in numbers is possibly due to the impact of the pandemic.

David Nunns reported that due to people being encouraged to exercise the Ramblers took the opportunity to do local path surveys, which has now resulted in North Yorkshire having a backlog of 8,100 issues. Simon Lyle continues to raise awareness of the importance of keeping our paths open and gave us a presentation at our AGM from the NYCC Countryside Access Service, showing the work carried out and examples of the Path Keeper Scheme.

Ian Reavill our Chairman was re-elected, and the existing Committee were re-elected en bloc. Regretfully Richard Bramall our Secretary decided to step down after doing an excellent job over the last 4 years, and Vivienne Taylor was elected for this position at our AGM.

Thanks to the hard work of both Tom Halstead (Webmaster) and Mike Norman (Walks Editor), all our members are kept up to date with both membership and walks information, and with the absence of the Area Walk's booklet and the newsletter, it has been an invaluable source of information.

Vivienne Taylor-secretary

Area Secretary's Remarks

Our Area Council met 4 times this year, all meetings were on-line via Zoom, as was our AGM in January 2021 but we have made the decision that our AGM in January 2022 will be held as a live meeting at the Poppleton Tithe Barn, York.

Our Area has purchased a Zoom-Pro licence and this is available for all Groups use for on-line committee meetings or training sessions. Area Council has made the decision to hold all future winter meetings (November & February) via Zoom, whilst summer meetings (May & August) will be in person at Wetwang village hall.

Throughout the pandemic Ramblers Central Office have been providing guidance on Government regulations and rules on Covid restrictions relating to group led walks. They are launching a new updated website in January 2022, this will be easier to navigate and more engaging, with group and area pages. Also in January Central Office will be launching a brand refresh, with new logos and updating Ramblers image and values as the main walking charity.

Central Office now e-mail volunteers a fortnightly newsletter with information, updates and resources.

Marian Thomas



Photos courtesy of Pocklington, York and GYBO Groups

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