

East Yorkshire &
Derwent Area
Ramblers



Annual Report

2021–22



www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk

Officers and Area Council members

President:	Position Vacant
Vice-presidents:	Roy Dresser, Ann Holt, John Jefferson, Ann Laing, David Nunns, Ray Wallis
Chairman:	Roy Hunt
Secretary:	Marian Thomas
Treasurer:	Sam Borman
Rights of Way Officers:	Hull & East Yorkshire- position Vacant York & North Yorkshire- David Nunns (standing down)
Walks programme:	Position Vacant
Environment officer:	Peter Ayling (standing down)
Access officer:	Tom Halstead
Communications officer:	Ann Laing
Area News editor:	Marian Thomas
Webmaster:	Stephen Down
Membership secretary:	Ann Laing
Minutes secretary:	Marian Thomas
Independent examiner:	Emily Hunt

Group secretaries (as of 1 December 2022)

Beverley:	Joe Neal
Get Your Boots On:	Naomi Voet
Howden and Goole:	Marian Thomas
Hull and Holderness:	Elaine Tague
Pocklington:	Richard Primmer
Ryedale:	Tony Malt
Scarborough:	Cathryn Ferris
York:	Vivienne Taylor

Notice of the 2023 Area Annual General Meeting

All EYDA Ramblers members and representatives of affiliated organisations, are invited to attend the **Annual General Meeting** beginning at 2.00pm on **Saturday 21st January 2023** at the Victoria Dock Village Hall & Community Centre, South Bridge Road, Victoria Dock, Hull HU9 1TL.

Agenda

1. Attendance and apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Annual report for 2021–22
5. Financial statement – accounts for year ending 30 September 2022
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		

7. Election of co-opted members of Area Council.
8. Appointment of an independent examiner
9. Appointment of 2 Area Delegates to 2023 General Council in Birmingham NEC (1st April)
10. Motions of which notice has been given in writing to the Area Secretary in accordance with rule 11 (viii) of the Constitution
11. Any other business

At 2pm prior to the AGM, Patrick Wharam (ERYC Countryside Access Manager) & Bruce Cutts (Natural England) will speak on the opening of the England Coastal Path and Countryside Access. After a short break for refreshments at around 2.45pm, the AGM will follow after which there will be a talk by an invited Ramblers Trustee or senior Ramblers Officer.



Message from the Area Chair

I would like to thank everybody who has contributed to the work we do to further the aims of our charity at area and group level, and in particular those who have supported our work over many years. As a membership charity it is our members in our different groups across the country that drive things forward. We have emerged from Covid in a fairly strong position, but some of our groups are not as strong as they were before. Some groups have responded well to the challenge of bringing their walks programme back to pre-Covid levels, but others have struggled to find the number of walk leaders they need.

It seems unlikely that the six monthly printed walks programme will be restarted in the near future, but Covid has improved our ability to use the internet to promote our walks programmes and for walkers to find the walks on offer. Some I know use our area web site whilst others prefer to use the facilities supported by our Central Office.

Our most pressing vacancies to fill are for two Area Rights of Way Officers covering the North and South of our area. If anyone can give their time to help they will be strongly supported by those that have done the work before and those who understand the rights of way network in their group territories.

This year, after too long, we have been able to appoint a new permanent Chief Executive, Ross Maloney, who joins us from the Scouts where he was well regarded. I have not met him yet, but have exchanged emails and have confidence that he can take us forward. I have also been impressed by the senior staff I have spoken with who support him.

During this last year we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Yorkshire Wolds Way. We can be proud that this path was first envisaged and developed by our area members before it was taken over to become a national trail.

During this next 12 months we expect that the England Coast Path will be formally opened, even though some sections may not have been completed. We have contributed a significant amount to the sections within our area. Many thanks to those who have been involved in this important work.

The Don't Lose Your Way project to claim historical routes as rights of way is a substantial piece of work that will continue into the future. Again, many thanks to those who have worked hard on this initiative.

Next year we will develop a campaign to amend the Countryside Rights of Way act that developed open access, much of which is in our area. The focus will be on

adding woodland, water sites and more grassland to the existing open access, as well as improving access to those areas that are currently land-locked.

Central Office is still struggling to deliver the new IT systems that have been promised for too long. I believe there is scope to rationalise the systems to improve future developments. This is an opportunity for our new Chief Executive to correct mistakes that many consider were made by his predecessors.

Roy Hunt, Area Chair

Footpath Report: York and North Yorkshire

Work on paths and access matters is delegated to our 3 local groups or other individuals wherever possible, passing on consultations, issues reported to Area and attending meetings with various bodies for Area. During the year Area has been seeking members to take over this work, which can be split into many parts. Tasks are many and varied and can take as much of your time as you wish. Please consider helping.

You do not have to be an 'expert' as advice and training is available from Central Office and local members. I am now over 80 and had a TIA (Stroke) in April, which makes one realise one's limitations.

We are getting to a new 'normal' after the various Covid restrictions. Council Rights of Way staff and volunteers often work from home, with meetings both online and face to face. New systems of using emails and photos from mobile phones to contact landowners seem to be working to reduce meetings and site visits. North Yorkshire County Council state they have finished detailed checking of their online map database against the Definitive Map paperwork they hold and are happy to roll out their new issue reporting system using their new interactive database, instead of letters.

Simon Lyle had difficulty obtaining updates from our list of surveyors, but he hopes for more over next year. I would like to thank all members who contributed to path work or access over the year, as every little helps. Some people have done local path surveys, with follow-up of issues being done remotely where possible. NYCC are still dealing with around 1900 path Issues a year. We hope to have updates for maintenance and improvement work when we have a meeting and presentation with NYCC Countryside staff in November.

Some Definitive Map Modification Orders have progressed over the year, Diversion Orders were progressed in York and Ryedale Group area, but very few in Scarborough. I can provide more details on request.

Hambleton DC consult Ramblers on planning applications that could affect paths, such as large and small Solar Farms between Husthwaite and Kilburn and several small-scale housing developments, some of which have been withdrawn or amended following comments.

North Yorkshire County Council are not pro-active in asserting public rights in planning applications, so we wonder what will happen next April when the new North Yorkshire Council take over the Planning duty. There was a further increase in claims for possible missing paths in our area, prior to removing the 2026 deadline, although very few were from Ramblers. NYCC say there is now a 4 to 5 years backlog of work.

The backlog of claims with City of York Council is progressing slowly, with several Orders moving through the process with the Planning Inspectorate. The Inquiry for the old route from York to Rufforth took place this year. The Inspector agreed that it may be a Byway, rather than a footpath, so another Inquiry is scheduled for next year into his proposed Order changes.

The new path from Naburn Lane by-pass bridge to the Ings, which was the cause of CYC having to progress all their outstanding DMMOs, is now open and used regularly. We are awaiting the Inspector's Decision following the Inquiry into the 2 Hagg Wood paths in Kexby.

CYC approved the plans for the National Rail Museum, with a revised Walkway agreement, by the casting vote of the Chairman. Local councillors hope for improvements to the riverside path before Leeman Road is closed. CYC published revised plans for the dualling of eastern end of the York Outer Ring Road, with the changes mentioned last year.

Highways England consulted on three outline schemes for dualling the A64 from Hopgrove to Barton Hill - each had perceived benefits and drawbacks for pedestrians, other users and the environment.

Network Rail consult us on Level Crossing proposals. They are proposing a stepped bridge at the end of Yorkfield Lane Copmanthorpe for around £2M. CYC would like a disabled friendly bridge at twice the cost, which Network Rail and landowners are objecting to – we await further developments. Much of the Selby – York link of The Trans Pennine Trail was improved and the work appreciated by users. *David Nunns*

Environmental Report

Power and Energy

(i) The plans for the Hornsea Four offshore wind farm, from which electricity will be fed via Barmston into the Grid south of Beverley, have been evaluated by HMI: the applicant was requested to answer a query from Chris Prince (Beverley Group) about access to footpaths around the site. Because of the volume of documentation submitted for these large projects, it is difficult to determine whether the applicant has carried out the surveys required by law to protect ancient hedges and trees, and vegetation. (ii) Joe Neal (Beverley Group Secretary) responded to a consultation over a site for another large sub-station receiving electricity from an offshore wind farm.

Planning Applications

Normally I circulate to members by email a draft response to planning applications, and their views are incorporated into a version that was circulated again before final submission to the authority. The Amazon distribution warehouse west of North Ferriby near Hull and adjacent to the A63 has been approved despite over 2,000 objections: we objected because of its proximity to the Yorkshire Wolds Way.

National countryside policy

The government is reconsidering its previous ban on onshore wind farms and fracking. Members are reminded that under Ramblers national policy, Areas are responsible for determining their policy towards wind farms, solar panel farms and oil and gas installations. In the absence of an Area Environment Officer, temporarily I hope, it is suggested that Group committees consider responding to any such applications within their territory, after consultation with Area Council.

I stepped down from the Area post in mid-year, and wish to thank Bob Dealey (Beverley), Tony Corrigan (Pocklington), Steve Lack (Hull & Holderness), and Chris Prince (Beverley) for their valued participation and support over many years as members of an Area (East Riding) environment sub-committee. I thank volunteers in Ryedale, Scarborough and York Groups who have responded to planning applications within their territories. Some years ago, Chris Bush, Tom Halstead and I attended meetings on science and the environment for schoolchildren in venues like

the Ryedale Folk Museum and the National Railway Museum: it was heartening to discover how much the children knew and cared about their environment.

Finally, the Cop27 International Climate Conference in Egypt managed to produce a scheme for financially supporting third world countries in dealing with effects of climate change, but it is unlikely that temperature increase will be restricted to 1.5 degrees centigrade.

Peter Ayling

Access Report

Coastal Access

The government announced in February 2022 that the England Coast Path would be fully walkable by the end of this Parliament.

Easington to Filey Brigg

The situation is unchanged from last year, because work is still underway to prepare the coast path for public use.

Humber Bridge to Easington

On 2 March 2022 the Secretary of State approved the reports and work is underway to prepare the coast path for public use. The first step is to contact owners and occupiers of the affected land to discuss the design and location of any new infrastructure that is needed, such as signs and gates.

Documents related our 20-year campaign for Open Access and Coastal Access in our Area can be accessed in the archive on the York Ramblers website

<https://yorkramblers.org.uk/useful-links/access-links.html>

Open Access Walks

I wrote to Lord Middleton asking him to renew permissive access in Burdale to be able to use the paths in Fairy Dale and into Whay Dale, which are essential for walkers to be able to enjoy Walk 7 in the guidebook. He said that he "...should be happy to extend for a further period" but that it should be done with the participation of NYCC. I contacted Robert Light (Countryside Access Technical Officer, NYCC) who replied: "I've been in touch with the Area Rights of Way Officer for the area and she asked me to advise you that she is going to look into the permissive agreement with a view to getting it renewed. However as the previous agreement lapsed a few years ago she will have to seek legal advice before

approaching the landowner with a new agreement. So at this moment we cannot provide a timescale of when a new agreement will be in place.”

Yorkshire Wolds AONB Designation Project

The first Public Engagement on potential Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation for The Yorkshire Wolds has now finished. I submitted two separate proposals [https://yorkramblers.org.uk/images/documents/general/Report Area Council Yorkshire Wolds AONB Project.pdf](https://yorkramblers.org.uk/images/documents/general/Report%20Area%20Council%20Yorkshire%20Wolds%20AONB%20Project.pdf) for extending the provisional Candidate Area on behalf of the EY&D Area, including maps, photographs and written cases for inclusion: one around Fordon, the other around Cottam. Comments are now being considered by the team evaluating the area and any appropriate refinements to the draft Candidate Area will be made. The outcome of this process will be a proposed Candidate Area and a supporting report, which will be submitted to Natural England.

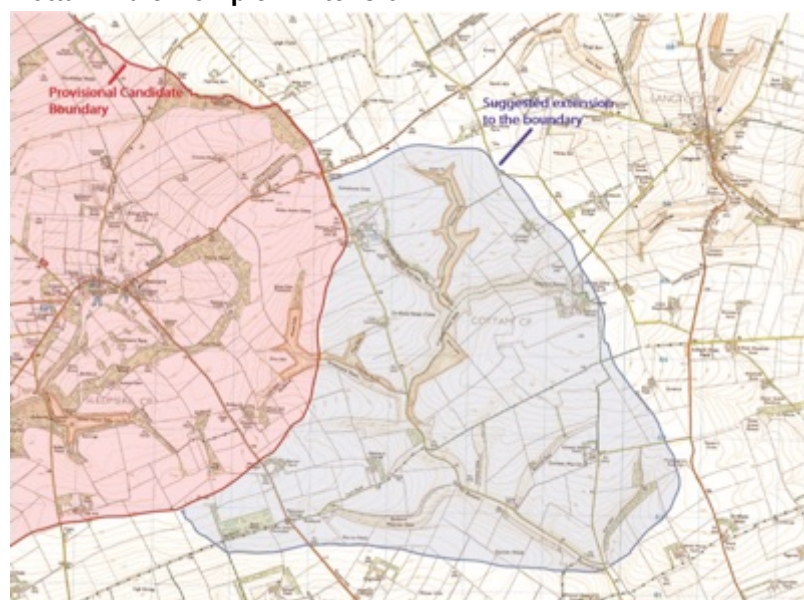
Map of Candidate Area



Fordon Grasslands Extension



Cottam Dale Complex Extension



Tom Halstead

Membership report

Membership figures from 1st October 2021 to 30 September 2022

There were 1543 (1487 active plus 56 payment pending) members on 30th September 2022 (1564 on 30 September 2021), compared with 1552 on 29th February 2020 (pre-pandemic).

The number of new members in the period 1st October 2021 to 30th September 2022 was 207, compared with 218, 177 and 195 in the previous three years.

Membership figures by group

Group	30/09/2022 (including payment pending)	30/09/2021 (including payment pending)
ER01 Beverley	280	274
ER03 Hull & Holderness	181	181
ER04 Ryedale	139	148
ER05 Scarborough	105	115
ER06 Pocklington	175	177
ER07 York	421	442
ER09 Howden & Goole	55	73
ER50 GYBO	133	116
ER96 unattached members	54	38

The national membership on 30th September 2022 was 102,144 compared to 101,130 on 30th September 2021.

Nine walking clubs in our Area are affiliated to the Ramblers. We appreciate their support. They are Patrington Walking Club, Goole & District Rambling Club, Hull CHA Rambling club, Rowntree Moor & Fell Club, Scarborough Rambling Club, York HF Rambling Club, The Windmill Walkers, Ryedale Walking Group, and Wheldrake Walking Club.

Ann Laing

Treasurer's Report year ending 30 September 2022

A breakdown of receipts and expenditure for the year ending 30th September 2022 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 £369.41 this year.

Income and expenditure have not changed much from last year but I shall highlight a few differences. We received more from CO but we paid more to Group funds. The increase in Publications/goods costs was due to reprinting of Minster Way booklets and Chalkland Way badges.

The Area ended the year with a decreased reserve of £6,412.82, that is £2,006.39 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 £5,195 so our reserves are above 100%. We would normally solve this by reducing our request to CO for funds, which we have done, but we have also added an additional £1,000 to cover the possibility of excess mileage claims for walk recces which may or may not happen.

The Area has no cash in hand, loans or investments but does have stock valued at £1,144.82.

The Restricted fund in 2021, which was a bequest from Dany Wlodarczyk, is now closed. The Restricted fund in 2022 was for the DLWY project.

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

Sam Borman
Area Treasurer

Restricted Account for period to 30 September 2022

Opening balance	£0.00
	Receipts
Funding from CO	£100.00
Closing balance	£17.30

	Payments
	£82.70

Main Account for period to 30 September 2022

Opening balance	£8,419.21
	Receipts
Funding from CO	£1,200.00
From group	£0.00
Publications/badges sales	£369.41
Other	£0.00
TOTAL	£1,569.41

	Payments
Groups funding	£1,310.68
Groups other	£196.79
Walks programmes	£0.00
Walks related	£230.60
Walks leader training	£55.36
Newsletters & publicity	£216.80
Publication/goods costs	£1,076.15
Campaigns/casework	£0.00
Meetings (including AGM)	£444.42
Admin	£0.00
Other	£45.00
TOTAL	£3,575.80

Movement in funds	-£2,006.39
Closing balance	£6,412.82

Restricted plus Main	£6,430.12
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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/badge 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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Area Website

The website continues to be well used, with the walks programme being the most commonly visited page, receiving hundreds of hits every week. The website is also used by the Pocklington and Howden & Goole groups to host photo galleries of their walks, and to advertise major events such as walking festivals.

Although I don't have the time to offer much in the way of development or on going improvement to the website, I hope that keeping these existing facilities alive is providing a useful service to members until such time as a new webmaster volunteers.

Stephen Down, Webmaster

Area News

Only one edition of Area news was produced this year, in October. In addition to giving details of the AGM, there were contributions from every group and a 2-page article celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Yorkshire Wolds Way.

Copies of Area News were e-mailed to all members who had supplied an e-mail address, with 250 copies 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

Despite having no Chairperson and many unfilled vacancies on our committee, Beverley Group has had a near full winter and summer walks programme thanks to the enthusiasm and commitment of our walk's secretary, Jackie Small. She has provided a diverse program over the last year, with different walking areas and offering some longer than usual walks, temporarily interrupted not by Covid for a change but the 'glorious' in inverted commas weather we had in the summer. Walks were cancelled by all groups for H&S reasons with temperatures in the very high 30's, giving a risk of heat stroke when exercising. Members have requested an option of having more shorter walks, which unfortunately we are unable to offer due to the number of leaders available to lead walks.

Walks continue to be published in stages, rather than the whole program, this flexibility is working well for the leaders in case there are amendments or cancellations to walks.

May saw a coach ramble go ahead, and 44 people enjoyed the option of 2 walks in the Ripon area. After the walks most people took the opportunity to use the free time to investigate the hospitality available at the local pubs and cafes.

In October 18 members enjoyed a lovely holiday in the HF house at Derwent bank, although Cat Bells proved more challenging than many of us remembered!

Beverley Group's Facebook page has proved very popular, with lots of pictures of walks to enjoy, and we receive more enquires about our walks because of the publicity this gives us. This has contributed in us ending the year with 275 members, almost the same as a year ago.

Our path minders have been out 32 times over the last 12 months and completed 290 Hours of work on the local path network. We were involved in surveying the route of the Yorkshire Wolds Way passing over our territory earlier in the year.

We have continued to look after the Driffeld canal side path and received contributions from the Skerne and Wansford parish Council and Driffeld navigation trust towards the hire of a mower to clear the path.

We are running out of jobs to do, so please could we encourage members to photograph and report footpath issues on the walking the riding website.

Joe Neal-secretary



Beverley Path Minders at work

Get Your Boots On (GYBO)

What a fantastic year 2022 has been for GYBO. Thank you to everyone who has been part of the journey, by leading walks, putting on events or by coming along and joining us on the walks, socials and other adventures. Last year members told us what they wanted to see from the group and hopefully, we've managed to either meet those expectations or move closer to those goals.

We've had our first ever open committee meeting, which is something members wanted to be able to join. We didn't have many non-committee members dial in but for those that did, thank you, your suggestions and input were both welcome and helpful. We'd like to do this again in 2023 and we encourage more of you to come along, as we want to hear what you have to say and move the group in the direction you'd like to see it go.

Change of social venue and days was something members told us they wanted. It's proved popular to move the social venues to different places around York and

to vary the days of the week it falls upon. The feedback has been that for people who were otherwise committed on set days of the week were able to come along to one or two that they wouldn't have been able to before, and also experience different places and atmospheres.

Additional social events – This year as a group we've done a Christmas meal & night out, cinema trips, a 20th birthday pizza & music evening, a curry night, York Races, a ghost walk, paddle boarding and an upcoming Pub Quiz. Members have told us that these are the things they like doing and would like more in the next year. For those coming a distance, they have said they prefer activities to just mid-week pub nights. So going forward we would like to make the mid-week pub get-togethers bi-monthly and put more activities on for the alternate months. Please speak up with your suggestions of what more you would like to see and, even help organise.

Members told us they didn't like using Eventbrite to book on to walks and this was removed almost instantly. Thankfully, with Covid restrictions, lifting this has meant much more flexibility for everyone.

It was suggested that barriers to leading walks was not quite knowing what to do or how to go about being a walk leader. Thank you to Stephen and Becky for providing an event of a walk, pub lunch and a very informative session on everything you needed to know about leading walks.

I'd like to give my thanks to Stephen, Martin and Louise for organising the fantastic trips away this year, to everyone who has led walks and organised social events, to the committee members for their hard work behind the scenes, to our outgoing committee members, Lorna & Becky, for everything they did in 2022 and finally to our wonderful GYBO members; turning up on walks, providing chat and entertainment and support to all.

Michelle Street (Chair)



Howden & Goole Group

This year our group has organised 33 led walks, which is quite an achievement for a small group with only 5 walk leaders. Our walks have ranged from 5 to 10 miles and we also try to vary our walking day to include Saturdays and some Fridays as well as Sundays. We have walked in some amazing places this year- Barlow Common & the Drax Reclamation Mound, Skipwith Common, Fairburn Ings RSPB Reserve, walks along the banks of the Rivers Ouse & Derwent and the lovely East Yorkshire Wolds. We contributed 3 led walks to the Walking East Yorkshire Festival last September.

Since we have so few walk leaders, we are only able to plan walks up to 2 months in advance. The current flexible on-line rolling programme of walks works well for our group. Our membership has dropped to 55, although there are a number of members from other groups who regularly walk with us. At our AGM we decided to set up a Facebook page to raise the profile of our group to the public.

Marian Thomas- secretary

Hull & Holderness Group

We've had fewer walks than usual this year, for a number of reasons: the most immediate one being various injuries and illnesses to walk leaders. The pool of walk leaders has also shrunk after Covid, and new leaders are hard to recruit. The popular six-monthly walks booklet, cancelled during Covid, has not yet been reintroduced and this has taken some momentum out of the programme. That said, the walks we have organised have been well attended, and we have a friendly, sociable following. Ages have ranged from 13 to 85!

Committee 2022-23

Steve Mullarkey: Walks Secretary, Val Mullarkey: Treasurer

Jo Bell: Social Secretary,

Elaine Tague; Secretary / Membership Secretary

Jim Tulloch: Hon. Life President;

Steve Lack: Chair.

Pocklington Group

It is pleasing to report that the past year has shown a return to near normal activities for the Pocklington Group, with members continuing to take care but 'living with' the risks of Covid.

Walks Programme: In the East Yorkshire and Derwent Area, we remain the only group to have organised and published to all our members a regular six-month Walks Programme. We also dropped the requirement to book onto walks as we progressed into 2022 and COVID regulations were relaxed. We also offered a full summer evening programme of walks. Initially numbers on all walks were lower than we had seen before the pandemic, but we have now seen an increase in those participating and Wednesday walks are particularly well attended. We are extremely grateful to all the Walks Leaders without whom our planned walks programme would not be possible. Special thanks must go to Tony Ashbridge for co-ordinating the overall Walks Programme, also to David and Evelyn Archer who have for many years organised the summer evening programmes of walks. Sadly, David and Evelyn have decided to relinquish these duties, but we are indebted to them for all the years that they have organised the extremely successful summer evening walks programme. This year through lack of support we were unable to run the proposed coach ramble to Grassington in the Yorkshire Dales. Instead, we offered a twelve-mile walk followed by afternoon tea at the Queens Head in Beverley. This proved to be very popular with twenty-four people joining the walk and twenty people enjoying the afternoon tea.

Holiday in Buxton: The much-anticipated holiday in Buxton finally happened this May - third time lucky! The holiday was a great success, and we enjoyed some wonderful weather with a little atrocious weather thrown in for good measure. This kept us on our toes. Thank you to Denise Godson and Julie Bowling for all their hard work and tenacity in arranging this popular event. Next year will see a return to Buxton in May with bookings already showing promising numbers and a draft varied programme of walks to be offered.

Driffield Show: Pocklington Ramblers supported the Ramblers Stand at the Driffield Show and this was once again a popular event and provides an excellent opportunity to promote the work and activities of Ramblers.

Wold Rangers Way Walking Festival 17th – 24th June 2022: Following the successful launch of The Wold Rangers Way circular walks in August 2021, Driffield Town Council organised a Week's Walking Festival using all or parts of the created routes. 'Guided Walks' were on offer each day supplemented by several self- led routes. Tony Corrigan was once again the liaison person between Driffield Council and the Ramblers, and this resulted in several Ramblers groups

including Pocklington providing Walk Leaders and Back Markers for this extremely well attended event. Once again it was an opportunity to showcase the work of Ramblers and to offer walking opportunities to a much wider group of people.

Walking East Yorkshire Festival: Pocklington Ramblers continues to support the Visit Hull and East Riding Walking Festival by providing walk leaders for the two long-distance walks. This year the walks were “The Chalkland Way” a circular route starting in Pocklington and devised by Ray Wallis, and the Wold Rangers route starting in Driffield and established in August 2021. Pocklington also provided leaders for at least three other walks on the programme. Martin Hill is the main liaison person between the East Riding Council and the Ramblers and plays a substantial role in keeping our group as vibrant as ever.

Wolds Way 40th Anniversary: On Sunday 2nd October we marked the 40th Anniversary of the Wolds Way by walking all seven sections in one day. This was achieved by Ramblers Leaders and Malcolm Hodgson, National Trails Officer for the Yorkshire Wolds Way, leading sections of the route. Martin Hill was the lynch pin behind this initiative. Everyone that walked one of the seven stages contributed to the mass effort to complete the entire 79-mile iconic trail in one day. What a great way to say “Happy Birthday” to one of England’s most beautiful walking routes and one very close to our hearts. Apart from the opportunity to sign up new members from those participating Ramblers also received positive publicity in television news footage, radio interviews and press coverage.

The Footpaths Team: Tony Corrigan heads up the team working on maintaining, upgrading, and restoring our footpaths. The Footpath team are our unsung heroes, who work tirelessly in the background without fuss but making a vital contribution to the quality of our walking experience. Our thanks to all involved.

AGM: The AGM was held in November in the excellent Bishop Wilton Village Hall. Over 30 members attended, and contributed to the discussions, and volunteers came forward to serve on Sub-groups working on the 20th Anniversary celebrations for March 2023 and a long-distance walk for later in the season. Prior to the meeting a large proportion of those attending undertook a local walk.

Our Pocklington Committee: I would also like to pay tribute to all our Pocklington Committee members who contribute so much to the success of the group. Some names have emerged naturally throughout this report, but many do not. It seems ironic that despite having, (at least), two accountants on the Committee it is left to a vet to deal with the delights of the financial systems.

Kate Plumb- Chair



Ryedale Group

We have offered a full programme of Sunday walks this year, which has attracted an average of 14 walkers. There have also been a number of shorter social walks on Saturdays once a month with about the same number. We have welcomed a number of new members, some who have become regular walkers.

The committee is still short of members and there will be a number of us retiring next year so please do consider joining.

Our work with Ryedale District Council last year has resulted in several opportunities to promote our walks and The Ramblers in their marketing this year.

Fortunately we have an enthusiastic group of leaders who continue to offer a wide range of walks and we are very grateful. As we pre-check walks we continue to identifying any footpath issues and report them to NYCC or the National Parks Authority. In most cases these issues are being resolved.

On the social side we again enjoyed a 'Walks with Cream Teas' in Goathland with over 30 coming along. A number of our members attended a group holiday at Derwent Bank, led walks for other groups and area events.

We welcome any new ideas and feedback to help us to maintain and improve the continued success of the Ryedale group.

Penny Hudson- Chair

Scarborough Group

We have had an almost full programme of Sunday walks throughout 2022 with only a handful of missing dates. We also put on some shorter summer evening walks throughout June and July. In January we held a new walk leaders training walk which resulted in a number of new leaders.

The group opened the year with 112 members and this fell to 103 at the year-end. We held a ten pin-bowling event for members in July and continue to enjoy meals out at various venues around the area. We are looking to hold more social events next year with a view to encouraging more participation in walks.

The working party, which assists the North York Moors National Park once per month throughout the year, continued to give great support only missing only one month due to adverse weather conditions.

Our AGM was held in late November 2022 and we said goodbye to Roger Crowther as secretary and acting chair and to Anne Thornton as walks organiser. We have a new chair, Gary Malcolm, a new secretary, Cathryn Ferris and a new walks organiser, Norman Barclay. We welcomed Peter Ayling, past President of the Area to our meeting and Peter spoke and answered questions on various matters relating to walking at both area and national levels.

Our priorities going forward are to increase the number of walk leaders and the numbers on our walks. We are very much looking forward to making further progress with our aims in 2023 and to continuing to enjoy walking in the beautiful countryside in and around our area.

Cathryn Ferris, Secretary



York Group

WALKING All five walking groups are well attended, although there has been a noticeable drop in members attending walks that are further afield, which is presumably due to the cost of fuel. There was a full programme of walks for all the walking groups, and since the middle of the year old members have returned and new members have joined. The shortage of walk leaders over the last 18 months has now eased due to the increase in walkers.

The York Group successfully organised two coach rambles this year, one to Settle in May and another to Reeth in October, both of which were well attended. Another coach ramble is planned for next year to Hawes in May.

Next year the York Group are looking to organise a weekly evening walk in the summer, which will be around 6/7 miles and ending up at a local pub for something to eat or drink.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: Most of the walking groups organised their own Christmas Lunches this year, and all of which got booked up very quickly.

MEMBERSHIP: Our current membership for November was 416, whereas last year we had 443 members. Interestingly the majority of members that left were those that had joined for only a year and did not renew their membership; our Membership Secretary is currently investigating this.

Vivienne Taylor-secretary



Area Secretary's Remarks

Area Council met 4 times this year, our winter meetings in November and February were on-line via Zoom, whilst our summer meetings were in person at Fimber Village Hall. Our decision to hold a live Area AGM on 22nd January 2022 at the Poppleton Tithe Barn, York was a great success, with a lovely winter walk followed by a lively debate at our business meeting especially on risk assessments and an interesting talk on the Yorkshire Wolds Way from our guest speaker Malcolm Hodgson, National Trails Officer.

Our Area has purchased a Zoom-Pro licence and this is available for all Groups use for on-line committee meetings or training sessions. Please contact me if you wish to use the Area Zoom account.

Ramblers Central Office are currently running 3 websites; the new website: beta.ramblers.org.uk which is colourful with interesting photos and news features; the old website: www.ramblers.org.uk which gives walk leaders access to the old walks manager GWEM (Group Walks and Event Manager) for group walk secretaries to publish their walks. Also Assemble, which is a password, protected volunteer portal giving access some on-line training, volunteer news features and the Ramblers document hub.

At the beginning of 2022 Central Office were hoping that their new Walks Manager would be running by the summer and would replace GWEM but there have been serious issues with it and it is still at the development stage, so that walk secretaries are still publishing their walks using GWEM.

If severe weather is forecast, it is the walk leaders/ group walk secretary's responsibility to either cancel the walk on GWEM or to modify the route and distance, which may be done without giving walkers prior notice. It is each walkers responsibility to check the Ramblers Walks Finder or Area website and social media, to get up-to date information on the status of walks.

Area Council agreed to discuss the reinstatement of the 6 monthly Area walks booklet, once the uncertainty caused by Covid pandemic was over. Some groups are in favour of this whilst other groups, especially those who are short of walk leaders need the flexibility of the rolling programme of walks published on the Area website. Some walk leaders are no longer prepared to commit to leading a walk 6 months in advance.

Marian Thomas



Photos courtesy of Pocklington, York, Howden & Goole and GYBO Groups

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