

East Yorkshire &
Derwent Area
Ramblers



Annual Report 2022–23



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, Peter Ayling
Chairman:	Roy Hunt
Secretary:	Marian Thomas
Treasurer:	Sam Borman
Rights of Way Officers:	Hull & East Yorkshire- Roy Hunt (temporary) York & North Yorkshire- Roy Hunt (temporary)
Environment officer:	Position Vacant
Access officer:	Tom Halstead
Communications officer:	Ann Laing (standing down)
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 2023)

Beverley:	Joe Neal
Get Your Boots On (GYBO):	Nikki Beckett
Howden and Goole:	Marian Thomas
Hull and Holderness:	Elaine Tague
Monday Area Group:	Peter Godfrey
Pocklington:	Richard Primmer
Ryedale:	Tony Malt
Scarborough:	Cathryn Ferris
York:	Tony Tew

Notice of the 2024 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 27th January 2024** at the Friends Meeting House, off Woodlands Drive, Scarborough YO12 5QZ.

Agenda

1. Attendance and apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Annual report for 2022–23
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	

7. Election of co-opted members of Area Council.
8. Appointment of an independent examiner
9. Appointment of a 2nd Area Delegate to 2024 General Council in Birmingham NEC (20th 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, Bernie McLinden retired North Yorks Moors National Park Ranger will speak on his many years of experience as a Ranger and on his work on the Coast-to Coast trail. 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 am very disappointed that I will not be present at the AGM this year. Lauren tells me that our son's wedding takes precedence.

At a local level our volunteers, operating in our groups and at area, continue to do outstanding work. We continue to offer great walks programmes and we remain steadfast guardians of our footpaths to ensure they are there for the future and are passable for those who want to use them. So, many thanks for all that our band of volunteers continue to do for us.

Walk Leader Regulation

At our last two AGM's, we had trustees from the Board telling us how the newly introduced risk assessments for walks were examples of "best practice", ignoring the widespread criticisms of our membership across the country. However, our new CEO, Ross Maloney, has employed a well-respected consultant in risk management for advice. What he says is:

"The Ramblers operate the tightest demands we have seen in the study for conducting a risk assessment. No other organisation was found to require a walk leader to complete a written risk assessment for every route, every time, and record it themselves for three years."

Well, thank you Martin Chester for telling the BoT exactly what the membership has been saying and thank you to the BoT for finally accepting what the membership have been saying for over two years.

However, we are now being presented with a 36 page document speaking in the most condescending way to experienced walk leaders about how they should lead walks in the future. So, we replace one piece of excessive bureaucracy with even more bureaucracy. The new regulations imposed (described as guidance) return us back to the position where there is widespread criticism from the membership.

Our walks programmes and to a considerable extent our groups managing to stay alive depend to a considerable extent on our walk leaders. For decades our groups have trained walks leaders and decided who they can entrust to lead for us. It is a fact that the bureaucracy that is imposed from above has the effect of reducing the number of our members who are prepared to lead walks for us. Is it really necessary to have 36 pages of regulation and guidance imposed on a walk that is typically a small number of walkers being guided on a short walk on public footpaths.

I have asked a number of specific questions of Central Office on this subject and received in return that my questions “have been noted”.

Ramblers New Strategy

Our BoT know that our financial position, with 100 or so staff, is unsustainable. They have recently “refreshed” Ramblers strategy to be in line with what major funders are looking for, e.g. Sport England who want to get those living in disadvantaged areas taking more exercise. We have been told that any new initiative will be run separately from Ramblers areas and groups.

Information Technology Changes

Over the past 12 months Central Office has launched a new walks manager to replace the previous version. This means that we will still be able to advertise our walks on the Ramblers national website and other internet-based applications.

The Next 12 months

Whilst our membership remains fairly level with previous years, there are groups that are having difficulty filling committee vacancies and recruiting sufficient volunteers to lead walks and carry out the other activities we do to protect, enhance and extend the network of footpaths in our area. If you can spare time to work with us in this valuable work, can I urge you to come forward? Some positions can be performed in the comfort of your own home, whilst others will encourage you to spend more time in the great outdoors.

Roy Hunt, Area Chair

Temporary Rights of Way Officer Report

The Rights of Way work has been relatively straightforward this year.

At the Beverley England Springs crossing I have received a complaint that Network Rail has temporarily closed a footpath crossing for reasons of safety. As railway crossings are being handled nationally, I have referred this complaint to Central Office to deal with.

At South Cave, a cross-field footpath needs to be diverted as planning permission has been given for the field to be excavated for sand and gravel. The proposal from the company was to divert the footpath the long way around the field. After

negation, it has been agreed that there will be a path all around what will become a small lake to provide a circular route.

There have been a number of permanent and temporary diversions agreed where the current footpath passes through a housing or industrial development. The changes were considered minor; therefore, no objection was made.

Roy Hunt

Access Report

King Charles III England Coast Path (as of 23 November 2023).

Here are excerpts from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-in-the-north-east-of-england>

3. Humber Bridge to Easington

Work is now underway to prepare the new stretch of 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 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.

4 (a) Easington to Bridlington (Wilsthorpe)

Work is now underway to prepare the new stretch of 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 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.

4(b) Bridlington (Wilsthorpe) to Filey Brigg

This 21-mile stretch of the England Coast Path (ECP) is now open to the public. Coastal access rights came into force along this section of the

Easington to Filey Brigg stretch on Wednesday 10 May 2023, by order of the Secretary of State.

The route is available to view on the [National Trails website](#). This is an annotated map of the Yorkshire section.



Stretch Progress

-  England Coast Path and associated access rights now open
-  Approved in whole but not yet open, establishment works planned or in progress
-  Approved in part but not yet open, establishment works planned or in progress for approved lengths

Yorkshire Wolds AONB Designation Project

Last year we submitted our proposals (<https://yorkramblers.org.uk/useful-links/access-links.html?task=weblink.go&id=28>) for additions to the Candidate Area. The formal public consultation process that was planned for this year has not happened and we have received no feedback.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (Amendment Bill)

This Private Members Bill, to extend the right of public access to the countryside, including to woodlands, the Green Belt, waters and more grasslands; and for connected purposes, presented by Caroline Lucas, received its 1st reading but did not complete its passage before the session ended and is no longer before Parliament. However, it may be re-introduced under a similar name in a subsequent session.

Tom Halstead -December 2023

Membership Report

Membership figures from 1st October 2022 to 30 September 2023

There were 1513 (1486 active plus 27 payment pending) members on 30th September 2023, (1543 on 30 September 2022).

The number of new members in the period 1st October 2022 to 30th September 2023 was 258, compared with 207 in the previous year.

Membership figures by group

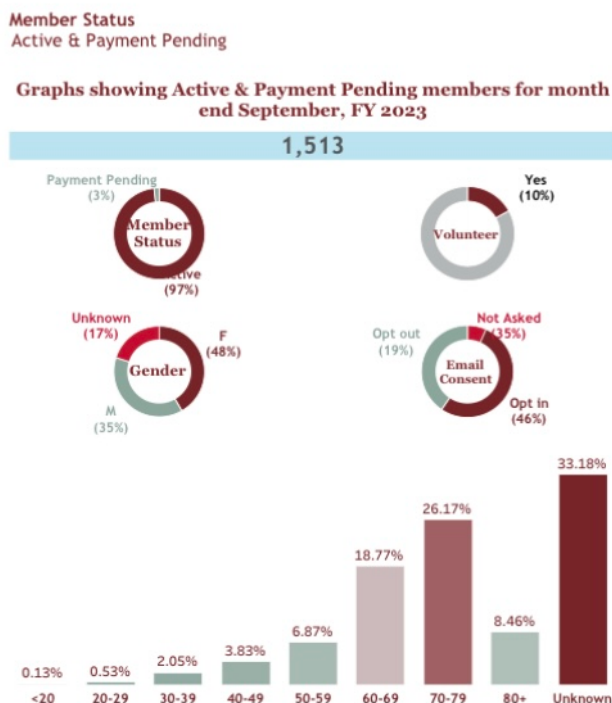
Group	30/09/2023 (including payment pending)	30/09/2022 (including payment pending)
ER01 Beverley	277	280
ER03 Hull & Holderness	175	181
ER04 Ryedale	118	139
ER05 Scarborough	104	105
ER06 Pocklington	161	175
ER07 York	421	421
ER09 Howden & Goole	57	55

ER50 GYBO	128	133
ER96 unattached members	72	54

The national membership on 30th September 2023 was 101,842 compared to 102,144 on 30th September 2022.

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 2023

A breakdown of receipts and expenditure for the year ending 30th September 2023 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 £35.80 this year. We have received a donation from the Chalkland Way Ultra of £75, more information about this can be found at <https://www.ultratrails.co.uk/chalkland-way-ultra>

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. Our major expense now is meetings and one of the reasons for the increase is that more people are now claiming expenses for attending meetings.

The Area ended the year with a increased reserve of £7,869.80, that is £1,456.98 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 £3,590 so our reserves are above 200%. We have solved this by requesting funds from CO for our Groups, and nothing for the Area.

The Area has no cash in hand, loans or investments but does have stock valued at £1,945.13.

The Restricted fund is for the DLYW "Don't Lose Your Way" 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 the period to 30 th September 2023			
Opening balance	£17.30		
	Receipts		Payments
Funding from CO	£150.00	General	£145.61
Closing Balance	£21.69		
Main Account for Period to 30 th September 2023			
Opening Balance	£6,412.82		
	Receipts		Payments
Funding from CO	£7,500.00	Groups funding	£3,831.19
From Group	£0.00	Groups other	£500.00
Donations	£75.00	Walks Programmes	£0.00
Publications/badges sales	£35.80	Walks related	£286.00
Other	£0.00	Walk leader training	£31.10
TOTAL	£7,610.80	Newsletter & Publicity	£604.60
		Publication/goods costs	£69.13
		Campaigns/casework	£0.00
		Meetings (inc. AGM)	£786.80
		Admin	£0.00
		Other	£45.00
		TOTAL	£6,153.82
Movement in funds	£1,456.98		
Closing Balance	£7,869.80		
Restricted plus Main	£7,891.49		

Restricted Account For the period to 30 th September 2022			
Opening balance	£0.00		
	Receipts		Payments
Funding from CO	£100.00	General	£82.70
Closing Balance	£17.30		
Main Account for Period to 30 th September 2022			
Opening Balance	£8,419.21		
	Receipts		Payments
Funding from CO	£1,200.00	Groups funding	£1,310.68
From Group	£0.00	Groups other	£196.79
Donations	£0.00	Walks Programmes	£0.00
Publications/badges sales	£369.41	Walks related	£230.60
Other	£0.00	Walk leader training	£55.36
TOTAL	£1,569.41	Newsletter & Publicity	£216.80
		Publication/goods costs	£1,076.15
		Campaigns/casework	£0.00
		Meetings (inc. 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		

Area Website

The website continues to be well-used by members. Unsurprisingly, with the printed walks programme no longer being produced and all groups now having adopted a rolling programme, the walks diary is the most popular feature on the site. This has been particularly useful recently as there have been several occasions where walks have had to be cancelled at short notice due to weather conditions, flooding or other circumstances outside the group's control, and the online diary highlights any cancellations so it is beneficial for members to check it regularly.

We now have more groups regularly submitting photos for our online galleries than before, and I'm pleased to be able to support groups in this way. These photos may provide some helpful inspiration to other walk leaders looking for new places to take their group!

I am working with the Ramblers Webs team to make some technical updates to ensure that the site remains secure and resilient in the years to come. While most of these changes are behind the scenes, one visible improvement is that we have modernised the look and feel of the photo galleries, which we hope will make them more attractive and easier to use for members

Stephen Down, Webmaster

Area News

Only one edition of Area news was produced this year, in November. In addition to giving details of the AGM, there were contributions from nearly every group and details of successful events such as GYBO hosting the National Young Ramblers Weekend in York and our involvement in the annual Walking East Riding Festival.

Copies of Area News were e-mailed to all members who had supplied an e-mail address, with 220 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- Area News editor



Group Reports

Beverley Group

The Beverley Group has been able offer a walk most Sundays. We continue to try different walk formats, for instance have used the bus from Bishop Burton to Market Weighton, enabling us to walk back to Bishop Burton. We also had an evening walk in the summer, and an end of walk picnic on the green at Hutton Cranswick.

In June Cathy Hughes organised a successful coach Ramble to the Osmotherly area. We currently have 14 registered volunteer walk leaders, 2 of which are new walk leaders. We currently have 283 members, one more than this time last year, including 38 new members to replace those that left the group.

Our Facebook page is a great shop window to show the public what we get up to, and we now have 390 members watching what we do and where we go to.

We had 2 very enjoyable social evening meals, at Elwells, the East Riding College's training restaurant, it was great to offer the students the opportunity to gain experience in dealing with demanding customers!

Twenty of us had a lovely trip to Sedbergh, again staying in the HF house and exploring the surrounding fells and rivers.

Our Path Minder team have continued to look after the foot paths in our area. We have been as far North as Hunmanby, and down South as far as The Humber foreshore, with variety of jobs involving vegetation clearance, way marking, bridge and railing repairs. We have been out 31 times in the last 12 months and have provided the East Riding of Yorkshire Council with 180 hours of free labour.

Joe Neal- secretary



Beverley Path Minders at work

Get Your Boots On (GYBO)

2023 has been an epic year for Get Your Boots On and I have been very proud to have been both a member of the group and also part of the fantastic team of people that have been behind the scenes making stuff happen.

Our new look website and mobile site has been given a revived, fresh and up to date look, it is now so much more user friendly. This was no small feat, and it couldn't have been done without the coming together of the technical wizards and wordsmiths on the GYBO Committee, dedicating many hours of their personal time. Our Facebook and Instagram pages are also thriving.

One of our greatest achievements was hosting the National Young Ramblers weekend here in York this year. The feedback was amazing and made all of the hard work that went into it worthwhile.

One of my personal missions as Chair was for GYBO to be more than just a walking group, this year we have had cinema trips, bowling nights, different interesting bars and restaurants to visit, the National Outdoor Expo in Birmingham, pub quizzes, a Firework display and a trip to the Jorvik Viking Centre. For the adrenaline junkies amongst us we even went gliding, traversed How Stean Gorge on the Via Ferrata and abseiled off a bridge! We've also had 3 amazing weekends away at Derwent Water led by Karen, Dufton led by Andrew and Snowdonia led by Fiona.

Finally, it's been an exciting and varied walk diary this year. We've got our boots on and hiked our way all around Yorkshire and beyond. It's been pleasing to see a number of first time walk leaders take up the challenge laid out last year to give back to the group and lead us on, although, the majority of the walks have been led by just a small handful of people.

Michelle Street (Chair)

Howden & Goole Group

This year the group has organised 27 led walks, which is quite an achievement for a small group with only 4 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. Two of the walks were joint with other groups- Beverley and Hull & Holderness and more are planned. We have also experimented on two occasions offering a choice of 2 walks with the same start point- one around 6 miles for those who prefer shorter walks and the other around 10 miles, with the shorter walk peeling off around the halfway point returning start of the walk via a short cut whilst the longer walk continued- for this we needed two walk leaders.

We have walked in some beautiful places this year- Skipwith Common, Kirkham Priory, Tibthorpe and the Chalkland Way, walks along the banks of the Rivers Ouse, Derwent & Aire and the lovely East Yorkshire Wolds. We contributed 2 led walks to the Walking East Yorkshire Festival in September.

Marian Thomas- secretary

Hull & Holderness Group

Our 2022 AGM voted in favour of reinstating the printed programme, bringing all Area walks together in one booklet. However, there was no support for this from other groups in our Area, therefore walks can now only be viewed on the website. We've kept a walks programme running despite having very few walk leaders left. There are positive signs towards the end of the year, with some new leaders coming forward; we are also sharing resources by organising a joint walk with Howden & Goole Group.

The England Coast Path has reached our group's northern border at Bridlington, and we look forward to completion of the trail to Spurn and Humber Bridge. Membership has remained stable around 180. Expenditure was only around £100, mainly on AGM catering and hall booking.

We say farewell and many thanks to Steve Mullarkey and Val Mullarkey for many years of service as Walks Secretary and Treasurer, and welcome Jo Bell as new Treasurer. Elaine Tague continues as Secretary.

Steve Lack, Chair



Monday Area Walks Group

We are a regular Monday walking group that enjoys walking in the East Riding. We try and make the walks varied as possible, our walks are usually between 6–7.5 miles and suits people who prefer shorter distances.

This year we will have walked nearly 300 miles and completed 44 different walks. We have estimated we have contributed approximately £100 to the local village halls for the use of their car parking.

Recently Peter Harrison has stepped down as walks secretary, but will continue to walk with the group as much as he can. His guidance during the Covid pandemic was outstanding and he has shown the group many walks.

We have recently had a recruitment drive for more walk leaders. There was a fantastic response and there are now 11 of us, which will ensure the continuity of the group in the future. Our thanks go to all the walk leaders who have led and recced walks during the last year, without their enthusiasm and dedication the group would not exist.

Peter Godfrey -Monday Area Walks Organiser

Pocklington Group

The Pocklington Group has had a good year between November 2022 and November 2023. We have been extremely busy engaging in a variety of different activities and celebrations as listed below.

March 2023 - Pocklington Ramblers 20th Anniversary. Pocklington Ramblers celebrated its 20th birthday in March and a small group was formed to organise events to mark the occasion. The very first walk started from Warter on Sunday 2nd March 2003 and some of those who took part in that walk are still members. The Committee recognised the 20th Anniversary as a major milestone and after much deliberation as to how to mark the event it was decided to arrange a special programme of walks for the weekend, and to end the celebrations with a social event which was held in Bishop Wilton Village Hall on the Sunday afternoon.

This social event was an informal gathering and allowed members plenty of opportunity to socialise and share memories with each other of their experiences with the group. There was a short reception with welcome drinks on arrival and the opportunity to participate in a topical quiz. In addition, one of our members, Rosie Fletcher and her husband Peter,

kindly agreed to perform a group of songs appropriate to the occasion. The social event was extremely successful and was booked to capacity.

May 2023 - Holiday in Buxton In May 2023 we returned to Buxton for our annual holiday. This was a great success, and we enjoyed some wonderful weather, excellent walks, and superb company. Thank you to Julie Bowling and Sally White for all their hard work in arranging this popular event. Next year, will see a return to another favourite, the Patterdale Hotel in May.

May – October 2023 -The Cleveland Way; At the last AGM it was suggested that the opportunity to walk a long-distance footpath - the Cleveland Way - be organised and offered to the group. The proposal was swiftly backed up by offers of help which always helps expedite the process.

The Cleveland Way was instantly popular with up to 37 members booking onto each of the eleven stages. This response was beyond our wildest expectations and every other Wednesday from May to the beginning of September, and a gap before the final one in October, becoming a feature of our year. We were also fortunate with the weather on Cleveland Way Wednesdays as they were generally, dry, sunny, and warm – perhaps a little too warm at times.

Walks Programme: In the East Yorkshire and Derwent Area, we continue to remain the only group to have organised and published for all our members a regular six-month Walks Programme. We also offered a full summer evening programme of walks. The upward trend in those participating has continued, and Wednesday walks are particularly well attended. Evening walks were less popular, and we are reviewing how to make future evening programmes work better for people. 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 Sarah Anderson who took over the responsibility of organising the summer evening programmes of walks from David and Evelyn Archer.

Once again, a twelve-mile walk followed by afternoon tea at the Queens Head in Beverley was offered in September and was equally as popular as last year. Twenty-three people joined the walk and twenty-one people enjoyed the afternoon tea.

June 2023 First Aid Training for Walk Leaders; In June the opportunity to participate in one of two, three-hour training sessions on First Aid were offered to walk leaders. The course was extremely successful, and our thanks go to the Trainer Carl from the St. John's Ambulance Service, to Martin Hill for liaising with the provider to organise the event, and to the Area Committee for their support in helping us meet the funding shortfall.

All participants commented positively on the course by saying that they found the content relevant and useful. Overall, participants found it to be both a refresher and covering additional new updated content. Knowledge and practical work relating to CPR techniques were consistently highlighted as particularly beneficial. The practical application of learning skills such as applying bandages, making slings, and dealing with wounds was also welcomed. Participants expressed the view that because of the course they felt more confident about dealing with a First Aid issues whilst leading a Ramblers Walk. Hopefully their skills won't be needed, but they are prepared!

June 2023 Wold Rangers Way Walking Festival; Following the successful launch of The Wold Rangers Way circular walks in August 2021, Driffield Town Council organised a 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 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.

September Walking East Yorkshire Festival; Pocklington Ramblers continues to support the Visit Hull and East Riding Festival of the Outdoors by providing walk leaders for the two long-distance walks. 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. This year the longer distance routes consisted of two, two-day routes. The first was two days of the King Charles III Coast path from Bridlington to Filey, and the second route was the North Wolds from Millington to Thixendale. The two routes were led by Martin Hill and Tony Corrigan. In addition to the two longer distance footpaths, members of the public were offered access to some of the walks on our regular walking programme.

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.

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. All have worked well as a team to make the Group successful. Looking forward, we now have a committee of 9 members, having welcomed two new volunteers after our AGM. This bodes well for next year.

Final Thoughts: We would like to thank the membership for their continued support. We do not take this support for granted and value it as without active members we would not exist. It is the membership that make our group the vibrant, fun, energetic, and successful group that we have become over the last 20 years.

Kate Plumb-Chair



Ryedale Group

Ryedale Group has had a full programme of Sunday walks which are usually about 10 miles long. Only one walk had to be postponed owing to inclement weather. The group has also offered throughout the year a limited number of shorter 5-mile walks on Saturdays. Included in the Sunday programme was a visit to 'The

Hanging Stones Sculpture Trail in Northdale (adjacent to Rosedale) where 3 groups of 7 walkers set off in intervals to view the 9 barns that Andrew Goldsworthy has so far completed to display his creations.

Another Sunday event was tea and cakes at Appleton – le- Moors preceded by a choice of 3 graded walks (3,5 and 10 miles) a total of 33 people joined in one or other of the walks.

The group presently has 118 members which has dropped over the year from 139 last year.

Our AGM was held on the 19th of November 2023 at Terrington Village Hall, Penny Hudson retired from her role as Chair but fortunately John Motley has stepped forward to take her position. Kathryn Surtees has also taken on the role as Ryedale's Treasurer as well as Membership Secretary. We now have a full committee but have difficulty with recruiting additional committee members and also new Walk leaders. The group looks forward to another year of walking in 2024.

Tony Malt- Secretary

Scarborough Group

Membership at the start of the year was 106 finishing in December at 100.

We had an almost full programme of Sunday walks throughout 2023 with only a handful of missing dates. We also put on some shorter summer evening walks throughout June and July.

Social events: We started our year of social events on the 29th January with a short walk followed by Sunday lunch at the Forge Valley Inn, a sort of late Christmas celebration. We had 22 attendees and all had a great lunch and this was followed by one of our members, David, doing a sort of 'after dinner speech' with jokes and short stories.

April saw us having a beetle drive at the village hall in Ayton followed by pizzas from the local pub. A great night out, full of competitive spirit. In August one of our members, Belinda, organised an evening treasurer trail around Filey and although we had two attempts at it, because of the heavy rain cancelling the first attempt, it was a great night out. I think all the participants found areas of Filey they never knew existed when trying to work out the clues. Afterwards refreshments were taken at the White Lodge in Filey.

We had a ten-pin bowling night in Scarborough in October. Great fun and again more competitive spirit with prizes given for best and worst scores. We had various evening meals out around the Scarborough area through the year and we hoping to continue to do so throughout the coming year.

Footpath team: The group assisted the NYM National Park with its biennial BVPI surveys in May and November. Ten members from Scarborough and two from Ryedale surveyed paths within the National Park on a pass or fail basis. Notwithstanding the very wet conditions in November, all seemed to find the work worthwhile.

The working party continued to give much needed help and support to the North York Moors National Park and we thank all our volunteers for their hard work and dedication to keeping footpaths etc in good order.

AGM: Our AGM was held on Sunday 26th November at Burniston Village Hall. All the officers and committee were voted in to serve for another year. Two new members, Wendy Smith and Mark Roberts, were welcomed onto the committee. The Chairman thanked all officers and committee members for their hard work.

The group has been asked to host the Area AGM to take place in Scarborough in January 2024. We have booked the Friends Meeting House near the hospital for the meeting (as we did the last time we hosted the Area AGM) and we have recced a walk to take place in the morning- this winds its way down to the coast through Peasholm Glen and Park.

Going forward we shall continue to work on our 3 monthly walks programme encouraging new leaders to come forward by offering help and guidance on recces. Our aim as ever is to encourage as many people as possible to join us on our walks to enjoy the benefits of our beautiful area.

Cathryn Ferris, Secretary

York Group

Walking: The York Group continues to provide a full and varied programme of walks throughout the year. Numbers are recovering as folk continue to return after Covid and it has been good to be able to welcome new members in the last year.

Some walk secretaries continue to experience difficulties finding walk leaders and special thanks are due to the stalwarts who step up, sometimes at the very last minute, eg to cover for illness, and ensure that walks go ahead. An added challenge has been the ongoing public transport disruptions over the last year. Despite this, walk secretaries have managed to offer full programmes of walks.

In May, the Group once again organised a fully-booked coach ramble, this time to Haworth.

Membership: As of November 15th 2023, we had 423 full and 2 associate members compared with 416 full and 1 associate last year.

Finances: Our bank balances for the Main Fund and Self-Funded Activities remain relatively stable and healthy. This year, the Committee accepted the Basic Funding Allocation from Central Office. It will be used to cover Main Fund costs such as those incurred for the AGM and to reimburse walk leaders' claims for recce travel expenses.

Footpaths: North Yorkshire County Council are dealing with around 1,900 path issues a year. Their new practices appear to be successfully increasing productivity. The Footpaths Committee continues to seek new members. Tasks are many and varied, with both desk based and outdoors options.

There are 85 Parishes in the Ramblers York group area, and we are aiming to recruit volunteers to walk the paths in their chosen parish(es) once each year, and report any problems found to the relevant local authority. Following a "recruitment drive" by our Footpath Monitoring Officer, by June 2023 a volunteer had been assigned to each of the 85 parishes. By mid-November, 41 of the 85 parishes were reported as surveyed, with reports still coming in.

Website: Our website continues to display news, detailed walks programmes, minutes of meetings, and financial and policy updates. The website is working well and is attracting a steady stream of enquiries from potential members wanting to try us out.

Newsletters: Two newsletters were produced this year, one in April and another in August.

Social activities: Most of the walking groups organised their own Christmas Lunches again this year, all of which got booked up very quickly.

Tony Tew- 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 Middleton - on-the Wolds Village Hall. Our AGM on 21st January 2023 at Victoria Dock Village Hall, Hull was a success with a lovely winter walk, followed by a talk on the opening of the England Coastal Path by the ERYC countryside access team and the business meeting followed by lively discussion.

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 the Area secretary if you wish to use the Area Zoom account. Ramblers publicity material can be borrowed from the Area secretary for display at suitable events any time of year.

Walks Manager replaced GWEM in June and after some initial problems the new site is working smoothly. New draft walk leader guidance was published in November, concern has been expressed by Area Council members about the recommendations which are likely to deter new walk leaders from volunteering. The planned revised version of the guidance notes is due to be published in February, it is hoped that the concerns expressed by ourselves and many others groups & areas nationwide will be taken on board.

We are planning to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Chalkland Way, devised by Hull & Holderness member Ray Wallis. This is a beautiful 40 mile route in the most scenic parts of the Yorkshire Wolds; we plan to walk the entire route on Sunday 28th April, by dividing it up into 4 linear sections with 4 walk leaders and coach transport being used to ferry walkers from their cars at the end of the section to the beginning of each walk.

Marian Thomas



Photos courtesy of Pocklington, York, Beverley and Hull & Holderness Groups

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This 40-page walking guide is published by EYDA Ramblers. Order your copy from Tom Halstead (tkh1@york.ac.uk) for the Ramblers price of £4.50 including p&p.