

East Yorkshire &
Derwent Area
Ramblers



Annual Report 2023–24



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:	Position Vacant
Treasurer & Acting Chair:	Sam Borman
Secretary:	Marian Thomas
Rights of Way Officers:	Hull & East Yorkshire- Tony Corrigan (temporary) York & North Yorkshire- Position Vacant
Environment officer:	Position Vacant
Access officer:	Tom Halstead
Webmaster:	Stephen Down
Membership secretary:	Karen Van Eck
Minutes secretary:	Marian Thomas
Area News editor:	Marian Thomas
Independent examiner:	Emily Hunt

Group secretaries (as of 31st December 2024)

Beverley:	Joe Neal
Get Your Boots On (GYBO):	Louise Watson
Howden and Goole:	Marian Thomas
Hull and Holderness:	Elaine Tague
Midlife Hikers	Louise Corson
Monday Area Group:	Peter Godfrey
Pocklington:	Richard Primmer
Ryedale:	Rosemary Smart (membership)
Scarborough:	Cathryn Ferris
York:	Tony Tew

Notice of the 2025 Area Annual General Meeting

All East Yorkshire & Derwent Area Ramblers members are invited to attend the **Annual General Meeting** beginning at 1.30pm on **Saturday 1st February 2025** at Bishop Wilton Village Hall, Worsendale Rd, Bishop Wilton, nr York YO42 1ST.

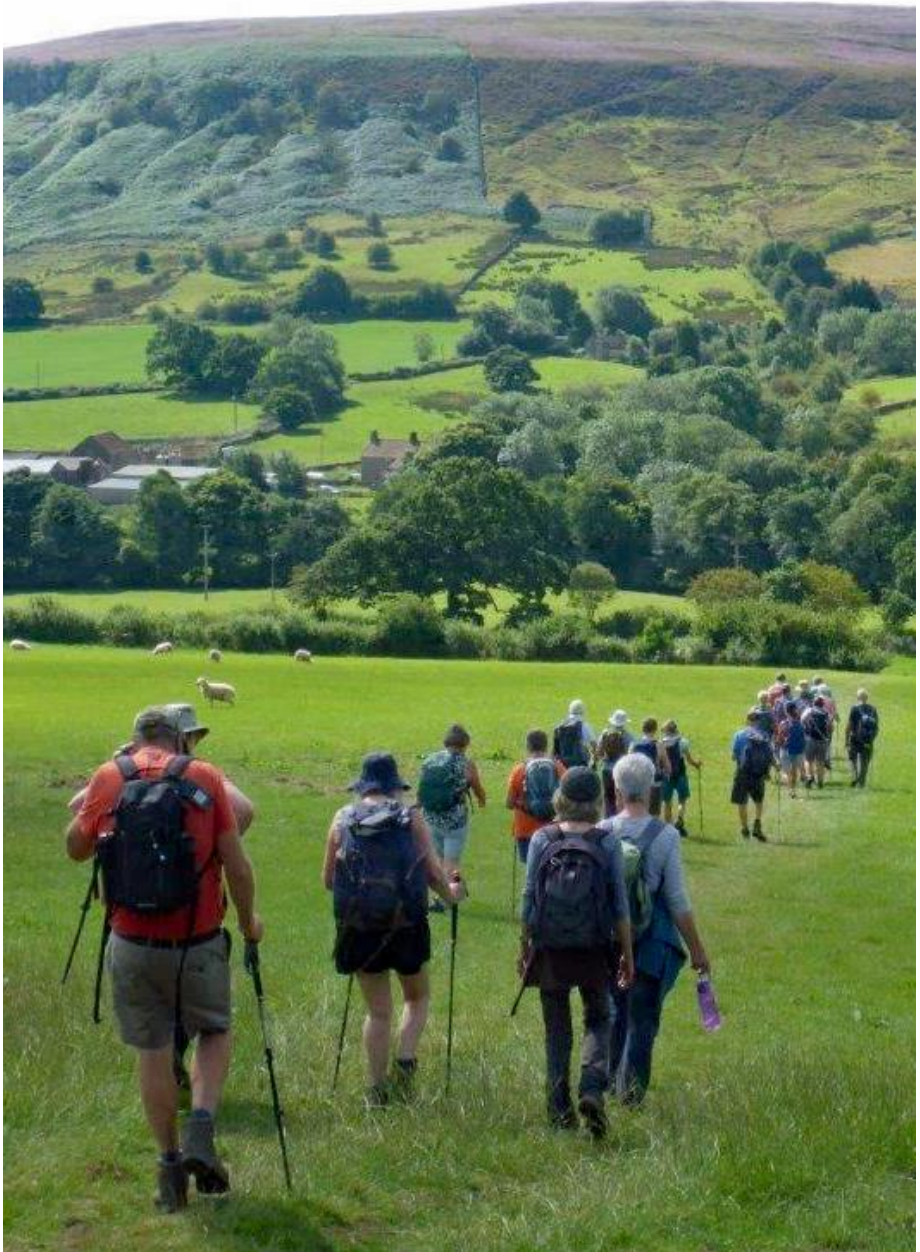
Agenda

1. Attendance and apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Annual report for 2023–24
5. Financial statement – accounts for year ending 30 September 2024
6. Election of officers and council members

President	Vice-presidents	Chairman
Secretary	Treasurer	Area footpath secretaries
Minutes secretary	Environment officer	Access officer
Webmaster	Membership officer	Area News editor

7. Appointment of an independent examiner
8. Appointment of two Area Delegate to 2025 General Council at Birmingham NEC (5th April)
9. Motions for GC, notice of which has been given in writing to the Area Secretary in accordance with rule 11 (viii) of the Constitution
10. Any other business

Following the AGM and after a short break for refreshments at around 2.30pm, there will then be a talk and Q & A session by an invited Ramblers Trustee.



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

Area Secretary's Report

2024 has been a year of change, in March Central Office issued their new walk leaders' guidance & risk management strategy. We were pleased that they had taken on board concerns expressed by ourselves and other Ramblers groups; we were worried that their draft guidance published in November 2023 was too prescriptive and likely to deter new and experienced walk leaders from volunteering. However, we are relieved that the revised walk leader's guidance is more flexible and non-prescriptive, and can be adapted according to local practice. New walk leaders are now required to complete two on-line training modules, but some of our new volunteers say the information is really useful. The requirement for walk leaders to complete a risk assessment before every walk has been replaced by a generic area risk assessment.

2024 also saw the end of Assemble- the poorly used volunteers' website, instead training and volunteer support can now be accessed by all members on the Ramblers main website www.ramblers.org.uk/volunteering.

Midlife Hikers: We are delighted to announce the formation of a new group which is being launched in January 2025- the Midlife Hikers Group, specifically aimed at walkers in their 40s and 50s. This is an off shoot from Get Your Boots On (GYBO) which was formed 20 years ago as a Ramblers group for young people in their 20s and 30s. Twenty years on there are an increasing number of GYBO members in their 40s and 50s, weakening the core purpose of the group which is to provide an opportunity for young people to walk and socialise with their peers. It was felt by the GYBO committee that the time was right to split the group into two, for the benefit of both age ranges.

Vacant Area Posts: A couple of key Area posts are vacant, we have been without a chair for nearly a year; our treasurer Sam Borman has agreed to chair Area Council meetings on a temporary basis, since having a chair-person is a mandatory requirement for an area to function. We are also without a footpath officer for North Yorkshire; our footpath work is the difference between the Rambles and other walking groups. This role involves acting as an interface with North Yorkshire Council on Rights of Way issues and if necessary, passing them onto the local Ramblers group. The work is rewarding and expertise & advice is available.

Area celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the opening of the scenic Chalkland Way on 28th April, by walking the entire 40-mile route- dividing it into 4 linear sections with 4 different walk leaders (from different groups).

A coach was used to ferry walkers from their cars to the start of each section. The route was devised by Hull & Holderness member Ray Wallis in 1994, and at the celebratory tea afterwards Ray was presented with a commemorative plaque identical to the one on a bench installed on the Chalkland Way. Our thanks go to Martin Hill (Pocklington Group) for organising this event, also for liaising with East Riding Council to provide walks and support for the successful East Yorkshire Walking Festival every September.

Area Council met 4 times during the year, all meetings were on-line via Zoom. We have purchased a Zoom-Pro licence and this is available for all groups to use for on-line committee meetings or training sessions. We also have a supply of Ramblers publicity material, banners and a digital projector which can be borrowed.

Marian Thomas, Area Secretary



Treasurer's Report year ending 30 September 2024

A breakdown of receipts and expenditure for the year ending 30th September 2024 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 £733.62 this year. We are also now receiving regular donations from Ultra Trails which amounted to £655 this year. More information about this group can be found at <https://www.ultratrails.co.uk>

Income and expenditure have not changed much from last year but I shall highlight a few differences. We received less from CO but have received more from publications sales and donations. Our major expense was newsletters and publicity and the reason for the increase was extra publications for the Chalkland Way celebration.

The Area ended the year with an increased reserve of £8,377.31, that is £507.51 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 £2,410 so our reserves are well above this. We have solved this by only 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 £2,119.60.

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 2024			
Opening balance	£21.69		
	Receipts		Payments
Funding from CO	£200.00	General	£133.68
Closing Balance	£88.01		
Main Account for Period to 30 th September 2024			
Opening Balance	£7,869.80		
	Receipts		Payments
Funding from CO	£5,500.00	Groups funding	£4,581.43
From Groups	£0.00	Groups other	£0.00
Donations	£655.00	Walks Programmes	£0.00
Publications/badges sales	£733.62	Walks related	£0.00
Other	£0.00	Walk leader training	£68.70
TOTAL	£6,888.62	Newsletter & Publicity	£1,022.64
		Publication/goods costs	£90.04
		Campaigns/casework	£0.00
		Meetings (inc. AGM)	£573.30
		Admin	£0.00
		Other	£45.00
		TOTAL	£6,381.11
Movement in funds	£507.51		
Closing Balance	£8,377.31		
Restricted plus Main	£8,465.32		

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 Groups	£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		

Footpath Report for East Riding and Hull

At last year's AGM for continuity purposes, I volunteered to temporarily fill this very important area role. Why? Because protection of rights of way remains a Ramblers core aim and we work to keep our countryside open to all and to fight for those things that matter most to walkers. So how are we doing this in East Riding and Hull Local Authority Areas?

Footpath Officers

Changes to rights of way whether creation, alteration or extinguishment of them follows an informal quasi - legal process with Ramblers being an integral part of consultations. Local knowledge is a valuable asset in deliberations and ideally each Group should have a Footpaths Officer. Disappointingly, from a large membership there is a dearth of volunteers for this position at group and area level.

2024 Consultations

We have been consulted on several Definitive Map Modification Order applications most of which progressed with agreement. Some we objected to:-

- a. Part of a planning application for further development of quarrying operations at Leven included a proposal to extinguish a cross-field bridleway and create an alternative. This would result in an unacceptable lengthy stretch of road walking and an existing bridleway becoming a cul de sac. Ramblers objected with suggestions. Proposals are now being reworked and it is anticipated a permissive bridleway will be created, existing bridleway retained but temporarily closed and reinstated at conclusion of operations.
- b. A 2018 housing development at Driffild resulted in Long Lane, an ancient bridleway being severed to facilitate construction vehicle movements for a specific phase. Ramblers and others objected but ERYC Planning made an order, subject to conditions. In 2024 Developers applied to alter conditions by extending time deadlines to assist in a new phase of building. Ramblers, along with others objected, seeking bridleway reinstatement. ERYC's decision was to reject the Developer's application; however Developers immediately appealed to HM Planning Inspectorate who overturned ERYC's decision. Expect an increase in traffic crossing Long Lane bridleway.
- c. Landowners in Terrington, North Yorkshire, applied to remove a footpath on their property. This followed earlier attempts by them and previous owners to alter this right of way. We objected to any extinguishment, suggesting an

alternative modification solution. North Yorkshire Council rejected extinguishment application proposals and a modification order application is now being determined and is acceptable.

NB: this was a case needing some knowledge of footpaths legislation so was dealt with by East Riding Area Footpaths Officer, there being no volunteer for such role to cover North Yorkshire area.

Additionally, ERYC has an ongoing consultation project concerning realignment of paths in Fimber and Wetwang parishes. If approved it will see an additional bridleway and footpath being created, parts of cross field paths moved and greater protection for and use of green lanes. We have been consulted and indicated support to most proposals, suggesting a few alterations.

Monitoring and Maintaining Rights of Way

Using paths free of obstruction, clearly waymarked, with gates, stiles and other furniture in serviceable condition is an expected standard. Local Authority on line reporting systems are there to be used. Issues not reported risk not being rectified.

Please report problems found on a walk whether a recce, led or simply recreational.

Parish Path Surveys

Pocklington group members biennially undertake surveys of their forty-seven parishes, some being adopted for repeat visits. Beverley group has a number of volunteers who've adopted a parish but more are needed for full coverage of their thirty-eight parishes. Sixty parishes in Hull & Holderness and twenty-six in Howden & Goole group areas are not surveyed, there being no volunteers. Why not offer to survey a parish in these two areas. It does not matter which group you walk with as guidance notes and parish maps will be provided.

Rights of Way Maintenance

Many footpath problems flagged up during surveys are resolved by Ramblers volunteers. Beverley and Pocklington footpath maintenance teams continue to undertake a wide variety of tasks for ensuring our rights of way network is fit for purpose. Specific attention is given to The Yorkshire Wolds Way national trail and also our local long-distance trails. An excellent working relationship exists with East Riding Council's Countryside Access Team.

King Charles III England Coastal Path Because of coastal erosion some original line adjustments have been necessary. It is hoped April/May 2025 will see the Bridlington – Easington - Humber Bridge section substantially opened.

Solar and Wind Farm Developments

Proliferation of applications for solar farms; cross country cabling operations from off shore operations; battery storage and sub - station extensions at Creyke Beck will impact upon East Riding's rights of way network. Although consultations engage with local authorities, communities and relevant organisations, decision making for such infrastructure projects is by PINs [Secretary of State's Planning Inspectorate].

Ramblers can meaningfully contribute at an early stage. Attending local consultation meetings provides an opportunity to identify issues, discussing appropriate changes that will minimise disruption to rights of way.

Groups now need to involve themselves in consultations. Two Area Environmental Officers formerly dealt with such matters, but again these posts are vacant, due to members not offering to volunteer.

Tony Corrigan

Access Report

King Charles III England Coast Path (as of 24 December 2024).

For the latest information about the status of the Path go to

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

Humber Bridge to Easington



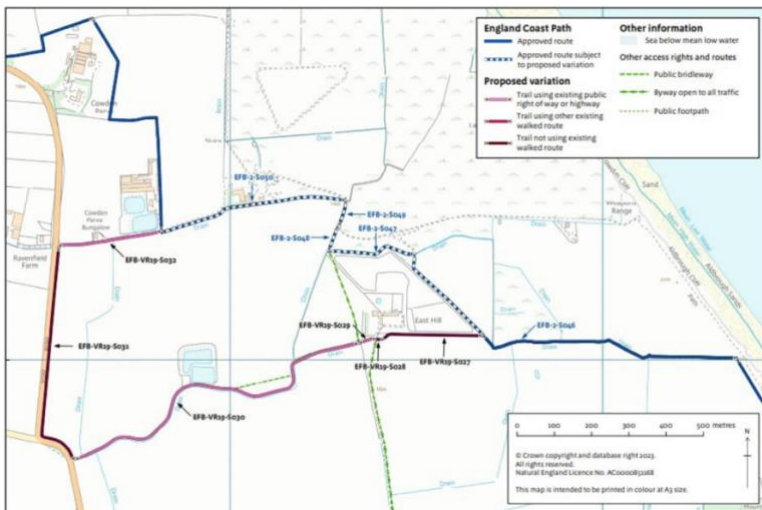
The ERYC Countryside Access Team reported that signs will be erected in December 2024



Easington to Bridlington (Wiltshire)

ERYC Countryside Access Team reported that the construction phase for this stretch is continuing well. Work on the clearance of the MOD Cowden site has been completed, half of the culverts have installed and the rest is expected to be completed by January 2025. At Fraisthorpe and Waxholme the trail needs to be rolled back due to coastal erosion. Signs will be ordered in January 2025. Apart from a small gap at Atwick where the construction of the footpath should be completed by July 2025, this stretch should be open in the Spring of 2025.

Cowden Parva



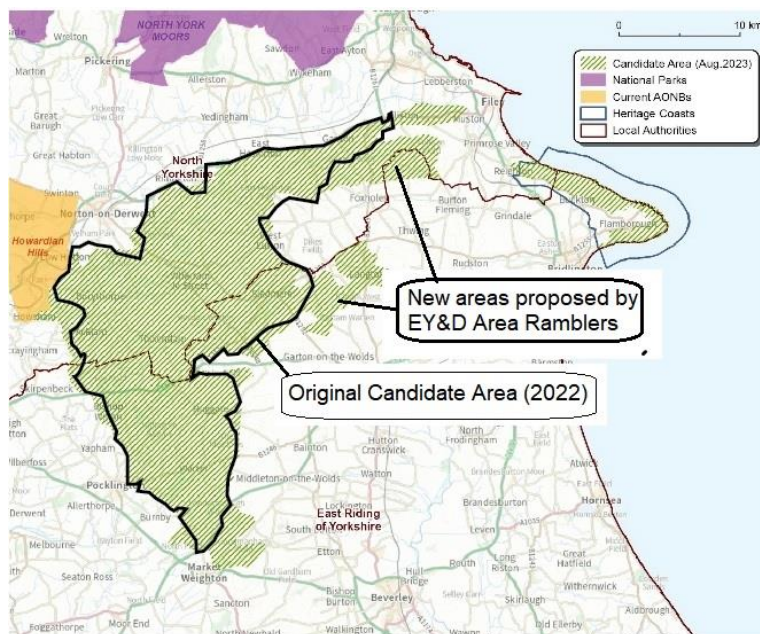
Natural England has submitted a variation report to the Secretary of State setting out proposals to change the approved route around the Cowden Former Air Weapons Range. The Defence Infrastructure Organisation has requested that the path on the southern FAWR boundary edge be moved, due to operational land

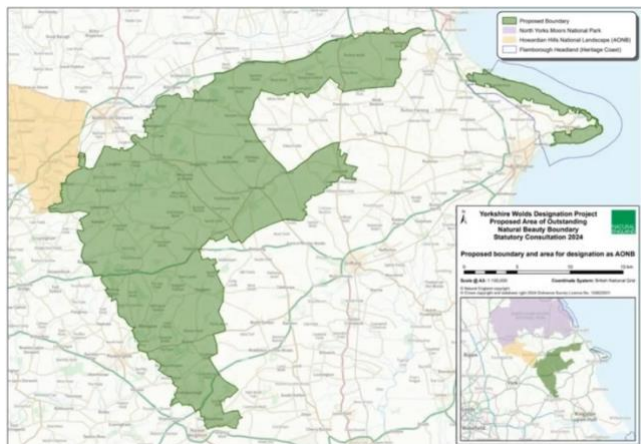
management requirements. This follows more closely the route proposed by us in our proposals of 2013 and avoids the busy B 1242.

Yorkshire Wolds AONB Designation Project

The project was announced in 2022. Following an informal call for responses, we (EY&DA Ramblers) submitted a document proposing that the area should be extended to include the Fordon Grasslands and the Cottam Dale Complex. To read our proposals to go to:

[https://yorkramblers.org.uk/images/documents/Yorkshire%20AONB/Report%20Area%20Council%20Yorkshire%20Wolds%20AONB%20Project\(2022\).pdf](https://yorkramblers.org.uk/images/documents/Yorkshire%20AONB/Report%20Area%20Council%20Yorkshire%20Wolds%20AONB%20Project(2022).pdf)





Proposed Area October 2024

Following the consultation and after further assessment by the consultants Resources for Change, the Candidate Area has been extended to include, in addition to those proposed by us, several other areas. The new Proposed Area (405 km²) now includes areas: east of Goodmanham, east of Langtoft, west of the line from Stocking Dale to Muston along the Yorkshire Wolds Way, and an outlier alongside Speeton Cliffs, Bempton Cliffs, Flamborough Headland and Sewerby Cliffs.

The Statutory and Public Consultation period ends on 13 January 2025.

Tom Halstead (Area Access Officer)

Membership Report

Membership figures from 1st October 2023 to 30 September 2024

We had **1511** (1488 active plus 23 payment pending) members on 30th September 2024, (1513 on 30 September 2023).

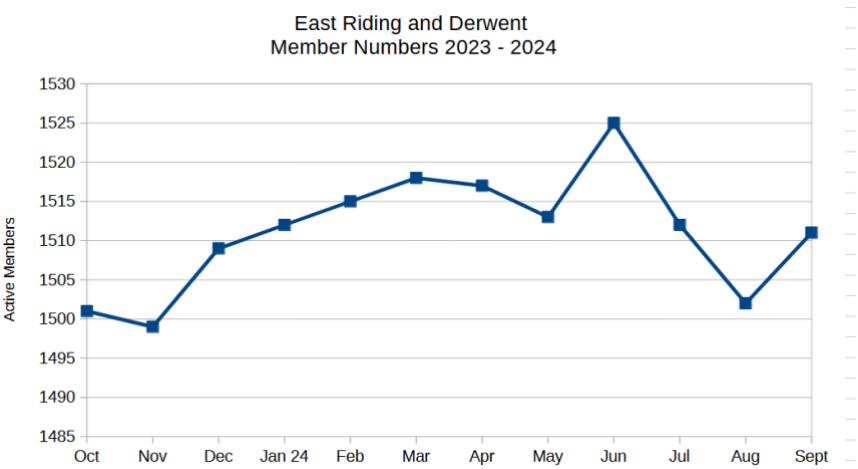
The number of new members in the period 1st October 2023 to 30th September 2024 was 248, compared with 258 in the previous year.

Membership figures by group

Group	30/09/2024 (including payment pending)	30/09/2023 (including payment pending)
ER01 Beverley	275	277
ER03 Hull & Holderness	175	175
ER04 Ryedale	112	118
ER05 Scarborough	103	104
ER06 Pocklington	152	161
ER07 York	427	421
ER09 Howden & Goole	53	57
ER50 GYBO	131	128
ER96 unattached members	79	72

The national membership on 30th September 2024 was 105,482 compared to 101,842 on 30th September 2023.

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



Area Website

The website continues to be well used, and the most popular page remains the Area Programme of Walks.

I post details of upcoming events, such as the Area Camp or East Riding walking festivals, and other newsworthy items, such as the recent consultation on the Yorkshire Wolds designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, as and when I am aware of them. I add photos most weeks from walks by the Pocklington, Ryedale and Monday groups.

I have also worked with Ramblers Webs to make further technical upgrades that were necessary to keep the website working. Unfortunately, as I indicated when I stood for election, I don't have the time to give to a broader review and overhaul of the website contents, but I will carry on keeping it ticking over until someone with more time to spare comes forward!

Stephen Down, *Webmaster*

Area News

Only one edition of Area News was produced this year, in July. There were contributions from nearly every group and details of the memorable Chalkland Way 30th Anniversary walks on 28th April and the celebratory tea afterwards, with photos of creator Ray Wallis being presented with a commemorative plaque identical to the one on a bench installed this year on the Chalkland Way.

Copies of Area News were e-mailed to all members who had supplied an e-mail address, with 200 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



Photo taken at Beverley Group AGM, shows Beverley secretary Joe Neal presenting Peter Ayling with an award from Central Office for his outstanding contribution to the Ramblers, both at Area and group level.

Peter has held a number of posts with the Beverley Group over many years and has also been Area President, Chair, Environment Officer and Publicity Officer.

Beverley Group

We have said a very grateful goodbye to Jackie Small who has done a fantastic job in putting a walk together almost every Sunday for the last 4 years, which has not been easy with covid, risk assessments and a diminishing number of walk leaders. Colin van Eck has been persuaded to be our new walks secretary, and we continue to be grateful to members in neighbouring groups who offer to lead walks for us

In May we were blessed with a perfect day for our coach ramble to Grassington. Despite the date clashing with a fun run, we all managed to enjoy the 2 walks provided and were able to fill a 50-seater coach thanks to Cathy Hughes meticulous planning and organisation.

Earlier in the year we had a meal at Elwell's, the East Riding College's catering departments restaurants. We always enjoy these events as the pupils are always so keen to enthusiastic and keen to please.

We had another very successful group holiday at Newfield Hall, the HF house close to Malham. We managed to walk every day from the house and were very grateful to Chis Prince and Ian Buxton for leading the medium and long walks every day.

Our Path Minders have had another busy year, going out every fortnight to help ERYC maintain our network of footpaths and bridleways. Most jobs involve either way marking or cutting back vegetation although we have had a few more interesting construction jobs repairing a boardwalk and replacing a bridge.

Joe Neal- secretary



Beverley Path Minders at work

Get Your Boots On (GYBO)

2024 has been a great year for GYBO, filled with numerous walks, social events, and weekends away, along with some changes for the future. Michelle's outstanding work during her tenure as chair laid a strong foundation, allowing me to find my footing as the new chair. We also welcomed several new members to the committee, who have worked hard to maintain our momentum throughout the year.

Among the changes we implemented was enhancing our Facebook Group page by adding participation questions for new members and updating the group picture

and name. We also welcomed Giulia to the committee, who has been exceptional in keeping our social media channels up-to-date. Her efforts have significantly boosted our engagement, which had been challenging in the past, when we didn't have a dedicated person for this.

In the last year, we have had 58 group walks, which is about the same as the previous year. We also had an impressive 7 first-time walk leaders. We recently embarked on our first winter long-distance walk, the Jorvic Way. Thanks to Stevie's excellent suggestion, we had no trouble finding leaders for this perfect winter adventure. This year, we had several weekends away in Alston, Edinburgh, Forest of Dean and the Lake District. These remain popular events, getting fully booked quickly. Throughout the year, we had a variety of social events, including pub socials, cinema outings, SUP/kayaking, Tough Mudder, and the Minster Phoenix light & sound projection.

Looking ahead, the next couple of years will see the biggest change in our Get Your Boots On history, as some of our 'veteran' members are forming a new 40s and 50s Ramblers group called 'Midlife Hikers' which is due to officially launch in January 2025. The committee wants to thank them for all their support over the years volunteering on the committee, leading walks, socials, weekends away and so much more, and for their continued support as Get Your Boots On and Midlife Hikers find their feet. We look forward to the groups continuing to have a close relationship and we will see some joint events in the coming year. This change will create opportunities for newer GYBO members to help shape the future of GYBO and bring new ideas.

Naomi Voet (Chair)



Howden & Goole Group

The group enjoyed 17 led walks over the past 12 months in some lovely countryside, two of these were led by guest walk leaders; we contributed a walk along the banks of the River Derwent for the Walking East Yorkshire Festival. The territory cover by our group is special, consisting of a number of rivers with good walking access on the flood barriers and also a couple of canals. Sadly, we are now desperately short of walk leaders, six years ago we had at least 10 walk leaders but now due to ill health there is currently only one remaining, with no other members interested or confident enough to take on this role, even with the promise of help and mentoring. The group intends to carry on for another year, hopefully with help from guest walker leaders from other groups.

Marian Thomas- secretary

Hull & Holderness Group

At the beginning of the year, we were down to two walk leaders, but still managed to provide a regular fortnightly programme. Since then, four or five new people have come forward, some of them through the new Ramblers online training, so things are looking more positive for 2025. Thanks to group officers, walk leaders and all members for continuing to support our walks. Membership hovers between 170 and 180. We always get 16 or 17 people on our walks, with a mixture of regulars and newbies. Over the years many new members have become regular walkers, and it remains a friendly and welcoming group.

Hull & Holderness was chuffed to be featured in the Autumn issue of Walk Magazine. It was great being able to sing the praises of our territory, which runs from Bempton Cliffs to Spurn to Hull and it was an opportunity to promote some less frequented areas like Sunk Island. Most of our small budget is spent on the AGM. It's pleasing to note that a large percentage of our money came from Ramblers Worldwide Holidays. If you book a holiday with RWH, nominate your local Ramblers Group and they'll get a donation – it really makes a difference.

Steve Lack, Chair



Monday Area Walks Group

Traditionally the Monday Area Group completes shorter walks than most, walking between 5-7 miles. Even so, during the year we have completed 46 varied walks, walking approx. 280 miles. We have also estimated to have collected approximately £280 for village hall car park fees which I am sure helps towards their upkeep. Our aim is to support them for many years to come.

The aim of the group is to continue to enjoy our Monday afternoon walking experience, and make new walkers welcome. There is a continuing upward trend of the number of walkers attending our walks, and many thanks to the walk leaders for making this possible. Also, many thanks to everyone attending the walks during a very wet year.

During September we contributed to the “Walking East Yorkshire Festival” at Little Waudby Farm. We had a sunny day and attracted 7 guests and 21 Ramblers.

We are looking forward to continuing walking in 2025 and hoping for better weather.

Peter Godfrey (Monday Area Walks Organiser)



Pocklington Group

The Pocklington Group has had an extremely successful year and engaged in the following events:

Whitby Way; This summer the group walked the Whitby Way, a route of some 66 miles from York to Whitby. In keeping with previous years and despite the atrocious summer weather that we have experienced, these Wednesdays managed to remain relatively dry. This enhanced the overall enjoyment of the walk.

Walking Festival: Our group continues to support the Walk East Yorkshire Festival, now has the sub-heading WALK, CYCLE, RIDE, EAT, DRINK, EXPLORE & DISCOVER and many of our group enjoyed the activities that were on offer. Some walking activities were led by Rambler's members and Martin Hill continues to liaise with the council on the organisation of this festival. Pocklington group enjoy financial recompense for his endeavours.

Footpath Team: The footpath team continues to work tirelessly in the background to protect our rights of way, both in terms of protecting their existence and their general condition. We are all very appreciative of this contribution that impacts positively upon the pleasure of our walk experience

Patterdale holiday: This May we had a group walking holiday to Patterdale in the Lake District. Sixty people participated and there were four walks on offer on each day. The weather was not so kind to us, so there had to be some 'on the hoof' planning to accommodate torrential rain and high winds. Despite this we were able to offer some interesting walks which ranged from the leisurely to the challenging. The holiday was successful and a second trip to Patterdale is being organised in May 2025.

Promotional events: This year we had some new Pocklington specific promotional leaflets printed and some examples should be available at the AGM. The aim is to increase membership of our group which tends to remain static and when new members join, we lose some others – nothing personal, I am sure! To promote our group, we participated in two events one at Burnby Hall and the other at 'Pockdown' a family event held in the summer. Whilst, neither event directly attracted new members, it heightened our profile within the Pocklington Community and the committee has decided that we should continue to support such events in the future.

Leaders Training: In July the committee offered a session on using Mapping Apps to plan and navigate walking routes. Uptake was disappointing, probably because of the time of year that it was offered, but those who participated found the session very helpful. The session also explored the information available on the Ramblers and Area Website, which is excellent, but often underutilised. Based on the positive feedback the committee is considering offering this event next year dependent upon interest.

Thanks to Pocklington Group Volunteers and Pocklington Committee. This year I moved away from naming specific volunteers throughout the report as there is always a danger that I will miss someone, but I would like to thank everyone that volunteered in any capacity this year.

Kate Plumb- Chair

Ryedale Group

It has been a successful but challenging year for the group. The sad death of Tony Malt our secretary, and resignation of Wendy Lancaster as Publicity Officer left a reduced committee of 4. Fortunately, Rosemary Smart was co-opted as Membership Secretary and Mick Surtees has now taken on the publicity role from Geoff Richardson. It's sustainable, but only just.

Financially we remain in a good position. With fewer activities and events than the previous year, we returned a small surplus. The group has accepted the standard basic allocation for the coming year.

There was a slight fall in membership from 118 to 107, but encouragingly, we welcomed several new members taking an active role on walks. We also recognise that many members support the aims of Ramblers financially through subscriptions and may not intend to join our walks.

Over the year, 44 Sunday walks (9-11 Miles) took place, including 2 joint coastal walks with Scarborough group; 5 walks had to be cancelled due to bad weather. Two special Sunday events were the 'Hanging Stones Sculpture Trail' from Rosedale Abbey and the joint social tea & cakes after the coastal walk at Ravenscar. With the move of Penny Hudson to Pocklington group, we were unable to offer the shorter 'social' walks. There's a continuing need to recruit and train walk leaders so that we can continue to offer weekly walks. It's likely there will be a few gaps in the 2025 programme.

We were most encouraged by good attendance at the AGM and thank all those who have supported us. We just need a few more walk leaders, a secretary and somebody with an interest in footpath work to commit to a volunteer role.

John Motley (Chair)

Scarborough Group

Our current membership is 107 and we have 17 active walk leaders. We completed 55 walks throughout the year with only one cancelled due to illness and one due to adverse weather. Our average attendance per walk was 12. Our AGM was held on the 24th November with 23 attendees. We had a short walk in the morning followed by the meeting. We operate with a full committee with the exception of a footpath secretary.

We were the hosts of the Area AGM which was held at the Quaker Meeting House in Scarborough on the 27th January. A short walk around Scarborough was followed by lunch break & then the meeting with 36 members in attendance. The guest speakers were Rebecca Dawson, Chair of the Board of Trustees and Glen Walker, Ramblers Director of People and Design.

Social events: We started our year of social events on 21st January with a short walk followed by Sunday lunch at the Forge Valley Inn, a sort of late Christmas celebration, with 21 attendees. 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 July our member Belinda, organised an evening treasurer trail around Scarborough and it was a great night out. I think all the participants learned some interesting facts about Scarborough when trying to work out the clues.

We had several evening meals out around the Scarborough area through the year. We held a “mince pie and mulled wine” ramble on 15th December- 6-mile walk followed by mince pies, mulled wine and various other goodies in one of our member’s barns. Afterwards we had a Christmas sing-a-long with 6 members of the Scarborough Rock Choir taking the lead. We feel the social side to our group brings people together outside the walks and adds a special dimension to the group, and we hope to continue these events in 2025.

Two of our committee members and one from Ryedale group are in the process of organising the Area Camp which will take place over the last weekend in June 2025 in and around Muker in Swaledale. Further details can be found on the Area website.

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. Going forward we shall continue to work on our annual walks programme, encouraging new leaders to come forward by offering help and guidance on using the Walks Manager programme and helping with reces when needed. 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

Once again, due to the dedication of the group organisers we have managed to find leaders to fill our walks programmes, nevertheless, this is becoming harder because fewer people are volunteering. Ramblers have introduced the requirement for new leaders to complete two e-learning modules before they can lead walks. Members of the committee who have trialled the training, along with one new leader, found the training helpful, though some have commented that it is on the long side. It is uncertain whether this training, valuable as it is, may be discouraging some new leaders from coming forward.

We have recently established a new monthly walk sub group the shape of the Friday Walks, led by Debby Cobbett. The walks are gently paced, about six miles long, and based in and around York.

The withdrawal by central office of funding to cover the cost of First Aid training has delayed our plans to organise a course. Alternative funding is being explored as there is considerable interest amongst our members for such training. Staying on a financial theme, our diligent Finance Secretary, Paul Shepherd, has this year produced an updated policy for reimbursing pre-walk recce expenses. The policy has been approved and our walk leaders have been reminded of this entitlement.

In charge of Parish footpath monitoring, Steve Hoather is managing and motivating a large team of willing volunteers who are making a magnificent effort to ensure that the bodies responsible for our footpaths are kept informed of any issues. Between them they are managing to cover and report maintenance issues on the vast majority of our paths.

Our annual Coach Ramble in June attracted 41 walkers, who were treated to three lovely walks in the Guisborough area, all converging on Saltburn. The unexpectedly warm, sunny weather added icing to the cake. Sincere thanks go to the three walk leaders and their assistants for recceing and facilitating these well

planned, enjoyable walks. Our thanks to Annette Bond and Anne Cornford, who coordinated the Coach Ramble. Also to members of the Public Transport Group for organising trips this year to the Peak District and a walking holiday on the island of Ischia, Italy.

This year our web site has been updated to Joomla 5 and is working well. Page views have recovered from the low numbers registered during the pandemic, to the previous healthy level of over 30,000 per annum. The Plot Your Own Route app, developed by Ramblers-Webs for exploring possible routes for rambles that make use of rights of way, has proved very popular since a link to it was added; 51% of our members now use a mobile phone to access our website, 33% a desktop and 5% a tablet. The arrangement of the pages has been modified to ensure that the website presentation is clear on all platforms.

We are indebted to Anne Parker, who has been producing our very informative newsletter for many years. Anne announced at our AGM that she will be standing down to make way for another editor. It is possible that future newsletters will be published on the website rather than being emailed.

Group membership has grown slightly this year and last month was standing at around 427. A concern noted by our membership secretary, Eric Smith, is that we are finding it quite hard to retain the trickle of new members joining us. Long-time members appreciate that joining the Ramblers has added a great deal to our lives, giving us the chance to both exercise and socialise, and we perhaps need to communicate this message even harder!

Tony Tew- secretary



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