

East Yorkshire &
Derwent Area
Ramblers



Annual Report
2024–25



www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk

Officers and Area Council members

President:	Position Vacant
Vice-presidents:	Peter Ayling, Roy Dresser, John Jefferson, Ann Laing, David Nunns, Ray Wallis
Chairman:	Position Vacant
Treasurer & Acting Chair:	Sam Borman
Secretary:	Marian Thomas
Rights of Way Officers:	Hull & East Yorkshire- Tony Corrigan 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:	Gary Malcolm
Independent examiner:	Emily Hunt

Group secretaries (as of 31st December 2025)

Beverley:	Joe Neal
Get Your Boots On (GYBO):	Amy Newlove
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 2026 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 24th January 2026** at Beverley Minster Parish Hall, Beverley, HU17 0DN.

Agenda

1. Attendance and apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Annual report for 2024–25
5. Financial statement – accounts for year ending 30th September 2025
6. Election of officers and council members

Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

Area footpath
secretaries

Minute secretary

Environment officer

Access Officer

Webmaster

Membership Officer

Area News editor

7. Appointment of an independent examiner
8. Appointment of two Area Delegates to 2026 General Council at Birmingham NEC (25th April)
9. Any motions for GC, notice of which has been given in writing to the Area Secretary
10. Any other business

Following the AGM and after a short break for refreshments at around 2.45pm to 3pm, there will then be an update and Q & A session from Lucy Robinson, chair of Board of Trustees.



*Photos courtesy of Pocklington, GYBO, Beverley, York, Midlife Hikers,
Ryedale and Hull & Holderness Groups*

Area Secretary's Report

2024/25 has been another interesting year; one highlight has been the opening of the final stage of the King Charles III England Coast Path in Yorkshire (from Easington to Filey Brigg), this completes a continuous National Trail along the Yorkshire coast to the Humber Bridge, with plenty of new footpaths to explore. Our Area was involved with the initial survey of the route and recently with footpath clearance.

Another positive is the success of a new group "Midlife Hikers", specifically aimed at walkers in their 40s and 50s, 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. In their first year, Midlife Hikers has organised over 50 events and recently had 89 members, many of whom are new to the Ramblers. Sadly, this year has seen the closure of another of our groups, Howden & Goole, due to lack of walk leaders and committee members.

Walk leaders training Policy: In July Central office e-mailed all walk leaders who had not completed the two on-line training modules informing them of an updated approach to walk leaders training. From 31st December all walk leaders will be required to have completed the on-line training or have led 12 walks in the last 3 years. The on-line training is not onerous and experienced walk leaders mostly find it useful; however, this new rule is problematic for groups with a higher number of older walk leaders, especially those who are not internet savvy. Nearly all our groups are really concerned about losing a significant number of their older walk leaders at a time when they are already short of walk leaders.

Governance Review: For the past two years the Board of Trustees has been undertaking a major review of how the Ramblers are governed, looking to modernise it, make it more democratic and to have more engagement with ordinary members. Under the current system 2 Area or group officers volunteer to attend the Ramblers AGM (one day meeting in Birmingham NEC), so that 2 members are representing the wishes of 1,600 members of East Yorkshire & Derwent Area. They vote to elect members of the Board of Trustees, listen to a report of Ramblers Annual activities and discuss finances. This is followed by the submission of several motions from Areas or groups to direct the future of Ramblers policy; these are discussed in detail, voted on and motions receiving a majority vote become Ramblers policy. General Council itself found this format to be undemocratic and proposed a change.

One member- one vote: under the proposed system all paid up members will have the right to vote for Trustees & attend the AGM, which will have to be held on-line to enable maximum participation.

Member & Volunteer Forums: It is proposed that General Council will be replaced by 6 annual forums, 4 for England and one each for Wales & Scotland. All groups and Areas will be able to send at least one representative (travel expenses refunded) to their forum, ours would be in the north of England. Staff & Trustees would be present and the agenda would include topics of interest, any proposed motions for discussion and workshops.

Our groups were once again actively involved in the successful East Riding Festival of Walking & Outdoors; we provided 10 walks for the festival from 5 of our different groups. Our walks attracted 199 walkers, 84 of whom were not members of the Ramblers.

The Area newsletter has been re-vitalised under a new enthusiastic editor-Gary Macolm, with two editions published this year. Also, Area Camp was revived this year with a successful weekend in Swaledale.

Vacant Area Posts: A couple of key Area posts are still vacant, we have been without a chair for nearly two years; 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 one of the Ramblers charitable aims & the difference between the Ramblers 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.

Our 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 for Year ending 30 September 2025

A breakdown of receipts and expenditure for the year ending 30th September 2025 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 £339.40 this year. We are also now receiving regular donations from Ultra Trails which amounted to £268.50 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, with outgoings broadly in line with the previous year. We no longer have a restricted fund as this was imposed on us by CO for the Don't Lose Your Way (DLYW) project. CO have now changed how they want this accounted for and expenses for DLYW now come out of the main fund.

The Area ended the year with a decreased reserve of £7,585.46 that is £879.86 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 £2,380 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 £1,817.20.

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

Sam Borman
Area Treasurer

RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION- EAST YORKSHIRE & DERWENT AREA			
Main Account for Period to 30th September 2025			
Opening Balance	£8,465.32		
	Receipts		Payments
Funding from CO	£5,000.00	Groups funding	£4,575.42
From Groups	£500.00	Groups other	£500.00
Donations	£268.50	Walks Programmes	£0.00
Publications/badges sales	£339.40	Walks related	£314.40
Other	£0.00	Walk leader training	£38.10
TOTAL	£6,107.90	Newsletter & Publicity	£339.12
		Publication/goods costs	£250.20
		Campaigns/casework	£213.84
		Meetings (inc. AGM)	£711.68
		Admin	£0.00
		Other	£45.00
		TOTAL	£6,987.76
Movement in funds	- £879.86		
Closing Balance	£7,585.46		

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		

Footpath Report for East Riding and Hull Authority Areas

Ramblers, as statutory consultees provide input across a broad spectrum of countryside matters, local knowledge greatly assisting considerations. Additionally, we are often approached by other organisations and members of the public for guidance and assistance in resolving rights of way problems. Last year's report and AGM flagged up a need for a Footpath Officer volunteer at Area and Group level. Sadly, but predictably, member interest for these roles did not materialise. If this situation continues Ramblers' contribution to protecting our local network of paths and countryside risks waning. This type of loss has already been experienced as a consequence of Area Environmental Officer posts remaining vacant.

Infrastructure Projects

Major project applications continue unbounded, with off shore wind farms, on shore solar farms and battery storage locations being approved by PINs [Secretary of State's Planning Inspectorate]. Consultation is currently ongoing for development of a Humber carbon capture pipeline and storage facility. From Drax Power Station it will cross areas of Goole, go through North Lincolnshire, turn north into Saltend before finally crossing Holderness to Easington. Such major developments invariably impact upon rights of way- paths being extinguished, diverted or temporarily closed off. A local input from Ramblers at an early stage can have a beneficial effect.

Rights of Way Consultations

It is pleasing to report Definitive Map Modification Order application consultations, including a few from North Yorkshire area have progressed without objections. Last year an ERYC project for realignment of paths in Fimber and Wetwang parishes was highlighted. This is still ongoing, further consultations being necessary. The latest iteration of proposals incorporates Ramblers suggestions. Among useful additions is a field edge footpath to remove road-verge walking west out of Wetwang. Hopefully, legal work for implementation of this scheme will be finalised this year.

Footpath Maintenance

Beverley and Pocklington footpath maintenance teams have continued carrying out remedial actions on East Riding's rights of way network. Prior to King Charles III England Coastal Path official opening on 18th August 2025, teams undertook a variety of completion tasks e.g. installing direction posts, brush cutting, removal of shrubbery, fencing and waymark signing. Appreciation for Ramblers commitment to path protection has been expressed by local authorities and path users.

Minster Way

Rights of way can become obstructed because of environmental elements but more often by landowner actions. The former is usually resolved by local authority public works, whereas negotiation or even legal intervention may be needed for the latter. In August at Dunnington, a 200m section of The Minster Way, our long distance local recreational trail was blocked off [locked gate and signs] by a landowner. Such actions were however legitimate, it being a parish boundary section that had not been officially recorded when East Yorkshire's Definitive Map was created. This event caused disquiet with all path users, not least Dunnington villagers and cyclists. Enquiries commenced immediately and a Definitive Map Modification Order application file has been submitted. In tandem, conversations with the landowner took place resulting in signs being removed and gate returning to an open and unlocked state. Historically, such boundary anomalies occurred during Definitive Map creation. A path would be claimed by one parish up to its boundary but continuance of it was not done by the adjoining parish. Discrepancies of this nature are being researched by volunteers in those Areas/Groups taking part in Ramblers DLYW project.

The Future

Protection of rights of way is a core aim of Ramblers and we are recognised as a 'go to' organisation for countryside access issues. To continue providing this service we need volunteers at group level to take an interest in their rights of way, history and procedures. Pre - COVID, our ERYC area Footpaths Committee comprised six members – now there is one!

Tony Corrigan Area Footpaths Officer [ERYC & Hull CC]

Access Report

King Charles III England Coast Path

The ambitious King Charles England Coast Path (KC3ECP) has achieved a major milestone with the official opening to the public on 18th August 2025 of the final 63-mile Yorkshire stretch, linking Easington to Filey Brigg. This completes a continuous National Trail along the Yorkshire coast from Humber Bridge to North Gare, and all the way north to the Scottish border, offering an uninterrupted walking experience along hundreds of miles of diverse coastline. This includes a "coastal margin", all land between the trail and the sea and sometimes extending inland from the trail. In the coastal margin, we'll usually have new rights to enjoy areas like beaches, dunes and foreshore. Expected to be completed in Spring 2026, the KC3ECP will

then be the longest managed coastal path in the world, stretching approximately 2,700 miles around the English coast.

Proposed Yorkshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The consultation has closed, and as a result, additional land, including all of the additional land proposed by us, has been included within the proposed boundary variation. Consequently, an additional statutory consultation will probably be required. The map of the new proposed boundary can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/2cp8lz96>.

Fairy Dale

Walk 7 (Burdale) in our "Open Access Walks North Yorkshire" booklet is currently facing a significant and unresolved access issue due to the expiry and non-renewal of a key permissive path agreement with the Birdsall Estate. The booklet, initially produced by local volunteers in partnership with North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) following the 2005 commencement of Open Access rights, has been a major success, with over 1000 free copies printed by NYCC in 2012 and reprinted in 2012, and 600 copies sold since its Area-funded reprint in 2015.

However, the viability of Walk 7 has been compromised. The route depended on permission granted by the Birdsall Estate (Lord Middleton) for key sections, including a crucial link connecting Fairy Dale [4] (see map) to a bridleway [5]. This permission, last renewed in 2015 for a three-year term, has now expired, leading to the current situation.

Lord Middleton's renewal offer was conditional on NYCC assuming full liability for any public claims against the Estate arising from the path's use. NYCC has confirmed it cannot legally accept such an unprecedented liability.



It is deeply disappointing that a technicality regarding liability has blocked access to such a beautiful and popular walk. While the public can still access Fairy Dale and Whay Dale via existing gates, the continuous route described in the booklet is no longer legally viable. Our recent proposal to create a new access point from the road near [E]) and spot height 159 was rejected by Lord Middleton. Given the Council's inability to assume liability and the rejection of alternative access, there currently appears to be no foreseeable path out of this access impasse.

Tom Halstead (Area Access Officer)

Membership Report

Membership figures from 1st October 2024 to 30 September 2025

We had **1583** (1560 active plus 23 payments pending) members on 30th September 2025, (1511 on 30 September 2024).

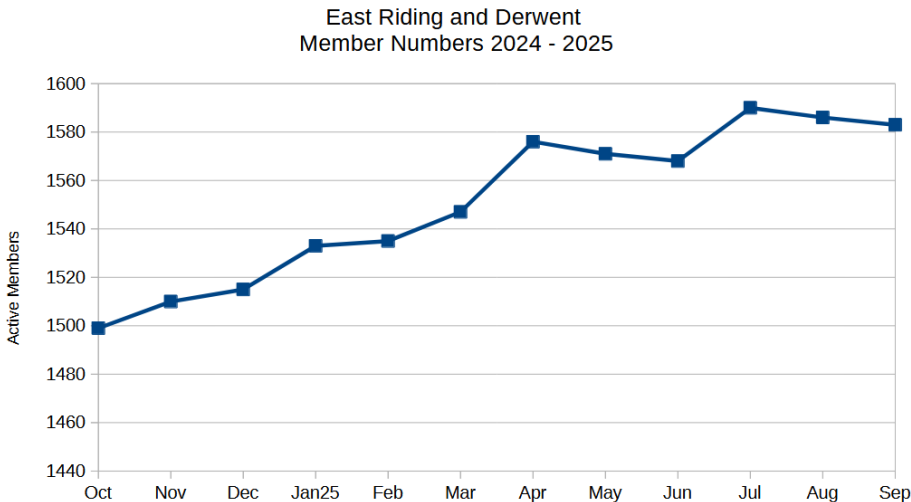
The number of new members in the period 1st October 2024 to 30th September 2025 was 308, compared with 248 in the previous year. The Midlife Hikers, GYBO and the Scarborough Group are responsible for the big increase in new members.

Membership figures by group

Group	30/09/2025 (including payment pending)	30/09/2024 (including payment pending)
ER01 Beverley	270	275
ER03 Hull & Holderness	155	175
ER04 Ryedale	102	112
ER05 Scarborough	120	103
ER06 Pocklington	149	152
ER07 York	423	427
ER09 Howden & Goole	52	53
ER50 GYBO	144	131
ER51 Midlife Hikers	88	-
ER96 unattached members	80	79

The national membership on 30th September 2025 was 107,899 compared to 105,482 on 30th September 2024.

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



Karen Van Eck, Area membership Officer

Area Website

The website continues to be a popular and well-used resource for members to check the diary for upcoming walks, and for some groups to share photos from recent walks. It is particularly useful for alerting members that walks are being cancelled at short notice, as long as groups encourage members to check the diary the day before the walk (especially in times of storms or snow).

As in previous years, I am happy to keep the website ticking along with photos and any other updates that groups send me, but I cannot commit the time needed for a more thorough overhaul and update of the site.

Stephen Down, *Webmaster*

Area News

The Area committee have decided that for now at least, they would like to continue with the Newsletter as a means to improve communication within the Area and to let members know something about the activities of other groups as well as what is going on at Area and national levels.

I volunteered to take on the role of Area Newsletter editor shortly after the Area AGM in Pocklington in January 2025. I follow in the footsteps of Marian Thomas who did a sterling job as my predecessor and to whom I acknowledge grateful thanks for assistance in my new role. Two issues of the Newsletter were published during the year, in April and October 2025 and I hope to publish newsletters at similar times in the future i.e. two per year.

As in previous years, the newsletters were sent electronically to groups who then sent out the newsletters to all members within their groups who had supplied an email address. Hard copies of the newsletter were sent out by me by post (with assistance) to all other members within the Area who had not supplied an email address.

Many thanks to all those who contributed articles, news items and photos in 2025. I will be seeking new material from the groups in March and September 2026 for the issues next year.

Gary Malcolm- *Area News editor*

E-mail: Garymalcolm@garymalcolm.plus.com

Area Camp

Area Camp was revived in 2025. Three leaders, from Scarborough and Ryedale groups got together to plan a weekend in Swaledale at the end of June, hoping for fine weather and long days.

Usha Gap campsite near Muker proved to be an excellent choice. There were 21 members with 9 camping, and the others finding their own accommodation nearby. We were able to offer 2 walks on the Saturday and Sunday, a group meal on Saturday evening and a camp barbecue on Sunday.

13 walkers met in Muker on the Friday afternoon after driving towards the rain which continued until late Saturday night. A very wet walk up Muker Side finished at the tea shop in Thwaite. People returning to their wet tents must have questioned the wisdom of their decision with more rain to come. On Saturday,

John led 9 walkers along the Swale to Gunnerside and back, while Norman's group climbed onto Ivelet Moor before returning to Muker. By that time, it wasn't possible to get any wetter, but the thought of the meal kept our spirits up. Keartons in Thwaite did us proud. Better things came. It stopped raining when I walked back to the campsite that night.

Sunday dawned bright; brilliant sunshine as 19 people joined Norman for a walk from Thwaite to Ravensseat. John led 5 walkers to Keld to explore the waterfalls. Both walks were spectacular. The recent rain had brought out the greenery of the landscape, streams and rivers were in full spate. We returned uplifted and refreshed to enjoy an outdoor barbecue which would have been unimaginable the day before.

Monday saw a few people return home, but everybody else (16 of us) joined John for a walk up to Maiden Castle returning via Grinton. Everybody was in a reflective mood, looking back at their experiences. We all agreed it had been a fabulous weekend. There was a strong support for returning to Upper Swaledale, so with a larger team of organisers we are making plans for the weekend of 26th -29th June 2026. We do hope you can join us.

John Motley (Ryedale Group chair)

Group Reports

Beverley Group

Beverley Ramblers are just about succeeding to offer a walk every weekend. Colin Van Eck does a great job as our walks secretary in ensuring that we can do this. We currently put walks on the website 2 months in advance, so that our walk leaders don't have to commit to lead several months prior to their walk.

Although the requirements for walk leader training is not onerous, they have had an effect on the number of walk leaders we can call upon, and we are now down to just 8 leaders.

We had a lovely coach ramble enjoyed by 44 ramblers. We wandered along the coastal path from Ravenscar to Whitby on a glorious May Day. Cathy and Duncan did a great job making sure no one was left behind at the start or the end of the day, and taking care of the finances.

The path minders have once again had a busy year. We continue to look after the Driffild canal side path between the Whinhill lock and Wansford. Previous work makes the mowing and cutting of this path relatively straight forwards. We spent a

day helping install eight way-marker posts on the King Charles III national trail. We have enjoyed various technical jobs repairing bridges decking, removing graffiti, as well as installing 3 benches on the Yorkshire Wolds Way. We are very fortunate to have the support of the East Riding Council's Countryside Access Team, who provide the materials for these jobs. Please continue to report path problems on the "Walking the Riding" website- we can only repair our paths if we know about them and also where the problem is.

It seems that Risk Assessments and evidence of training are heading the way of all Ramblers footpath teams, judging by the hints coming from central office, but hopefully these will be realistic and proportionate- for instance we won't need to have a qualified first aider on every job- but just need to know what to do if someone's thumb gets in the way of a hammer!

24 of us enjoyed spending time together in Coniston, Cumbria (not East Yorkshire), at the Holiday Fellowship house at Monk Coniston. We succeeded in walking every day from the house, apart from our secretary who managed to drive up to a car park half way up the Old Man, still it meant that the old man got to the top of the Old Man! Thanks to Chris Prince for a really interesting walk and Ian Buxton for a really long walk. At our recent AGM all the existing committee were re-elected for a further 12 months, but we are still without a Social Secretary, Publicity Secretary, and Foot Path Secretary, in case ANY Beverley Group members are reading this are looking for an opportunity to give something back to the Ramblers, please contact our secretary.

Joe Neal- secretary



Beverley Path Minders at Work

Get Your Boots On (GYBO)

2025 has been a year of change and positive growth for our walking group. The introduction of a separate Midlife Hikers group created a natural split between the 20s–30s members and those aged 40+. This change has been incredibly constructive. Not only has the new group flourished in its own right, but we have managed to keep increasing our members, re-establish ourselves firmly as a walking group for people aimed at their 20s and 30s. It has also opened the door to welcome many new faces, including walk leaders. I genuinely feel that we're in a stronger position than ever, with growing interest from people keen to get involved, whether by leading walks or joining the committee.

We are looking forward to the new year ahead, creating more walks and socials, more memories and more laughs along the way. We are always seeking for new walk leaders to carry out walks, weekends away and socials and we will try our upmost to keep striving for. We have one of the largest committee's that we have had for a long time, with new people coming with new ideas, which we can't wait to implement in 2026.

Rosie Dyball- Chair of GYBO



Howden & Goole Group

Sadly the group closed in September 2025, with only one walk leader and two committee members it was time to call a halt. The group was founded in 2003; it was never big as it covered a small catchment area, which was mostly rural. Our territory was characterised as being at the western end of East Yorkshire, drained

marshland with a number of rivers, most with riverside footpaths, however we also ventured into the Yorkshire Wolds. At its height around 2012-19, the group led 2 walks per month and had also had a programme of summer evening walks; we had about 12 walk leaders at this time and a central core of walkers who always supported the group. However, after Covid the number of walk leaders declined due to health issues, and the last few years have been a struggle. I have many fond memories of some splendid walks, in beautiful countryside with some lovely people.

Marian Thomas- former secretary Howden & Goole Group

Hull & Holderness Group

Thanks to an increase in walk leaders, we have managed to provide a regular walks programme, usually at least twice monthly. Our walks are mostly well attended, with a loyal core of regulars and steady stream of new members. We've had a few accidents and illnesses on walks, and it's always been gratifying to see the way Ramblers rally round to provide help and support. We also have a lot of laughs and often finish with coffee and cakes or something stronger.

2025 has been notable for the completion of the final part of the King Charles III England Coast Path through Yorkshire, which happened to fall entirely within our Group's territory - from the border with Hessle, east through Hedon and Sunk Island to Kilnsea, then north to Bridlington. Thanks to John Medland for leading a number of walks exploring what are, in many cases, new footpaths that were previously inaccessible. It's not every year we can celebrate a whole string of new paths!

Another highlight of the year was the Walking East Yorkshire Festival in September, to which we contributed walks in Easington, Flamborough and Hull. Thanks also to Jo Bell, Nickie Johnson, Alf Wiles, Elaine Tague, David Hubbard, Diane and John Hulse, Jeff & Karen Reynolds and Marian Thomas for leading walks throughout the year. Marian led some joint walks with Howden & Goole Group, but following their sad demise, we will have the silver lining of her services as a Hull & Holderness member.

New committee: Chair: Steve Lack, Secretary: Elaine Tague, Treasurer: Jo Bell, Walks Co-ordinators: Jeff Reynolds and Karen Reynolds, General member: Marian Thomas.

Steve Lack, Chair



Midlife Hikers

Introduction: The first year of our new group appears to be a great success. Midlife Hikers was created for people in their 40s and 50s, as a place where Ramblers members of Get Your Boots On (GYBO) could move to once they were no longer in their 20s and 30s. Many members from GYBO have moved across but we are also attracting lots of people who were not previously Ramblers members.

Walks: In 2025 we have had 36 daytime walks, 15 evening walks, 1 navigation walk and 1 weekend away. We have had to cancel two walks due to safety issues (wildfire on North York Moors and high winds forecast for a woodland walk). Walks have been led by 15 separate volunteer walk leaders in 2025 and two more members have signed up to lead walks in early 2026. Our average walk attendance is 18.

Membership: At the time of our Annual Meeting, we had 89 paid up members and 2.2k Facebook followers. Registers are taken at the start of every walk. Our inaugural Annual Meeting attracted 31 attendees, 29 of which were paid up members of Midlife Hikers. Of our members, 65 are brand new to the Ramblers, the rest are transfers from other groups (predominately Get Your Boots On).

Budget: We spent our full allocation in 2025 - many thanks to Sam for reimbursing each claim so efficiently and for answering all our queries. We have spent funding

on Facebook advertising, two flags, two first aid kits and booking the venue for our Annual Meeting.

Social events: We have held several successful social events during the year: pub meet ups in York, an escape room, gliding, Fountains Abbey by floodlight and a Christmas choir event.

Membership feedback: We have held a “have your say” feedback meeting and issued an anonymous online survey over the summer which was sent out to all members via email and posted on our Facebook page. Results are really encouraging, with lovely comments and positive feedback, which suggests what we are doing is hitting the mark.

The Year Ahead: here is a flavour of the things we have planned for the year ahead. We have an exciting weekend away in the Peak District at the beginning of June. We intend to walk the whole of the Cleveland Way in 2026 in 10 linear sections (we have emphasised that this is perfect for new walk leaders as it is so well signed and the routes are ready to go). A website for our group is being developed for us by Adam, the webmaster of Get Your Boots On.

We also intend to strengthen our links with our friends at Get Your Boots On, to maintain the bonds of friendship between our groups and encourage members to move across to Midlife Hikers when the time is right, respecting the intended age groups of our respective groups. We will continue to direct older walkers to other groups in the Area that are not age specific.

Louise Corson, Secretary



Monday Area Walks Group

From October 2024 to 15th December 2025 the Monday Group completed 56 walks. During this period 1,163 walkers have walked with the group making the average approx. 21 walkers per walk.

Many thanks to the walk leaders who have made this possible and also to our walkers for attending the walks, sometimes in extreme weather.

We have tried to make the walks as varied as possible walking in hilly areas such as Fridaythorpe and lowland areas such as Broomfleet. During the late summer we did a beach walk from Hornsea to Mappleton and saw a seal.

This year we enjoyed our Christmas lunch at The Minerva in Hull and this was a chance to catch up with members who are not walking with us at the moment. Going forward in 2026, we will try to continue to have varied walks; many thanks to our 9 walk leaders who have completed the Ramblers walk leader training modules. We are hoping to recruit more leaders in the future.

Peter Godfrey (Monday Area Walks Organiser)

Pocklington Group

Introduction: Pocklington Group has enjoyed another successful and very active year, steered by a well-motivated, very experienced committee, led by the excellent Chair- Kate Plumb. Kate stood down as Chair and Committee Member at the Pocklington Group AGM in November, having successfully completed the job for 5 years; I am privileged to have taken over from her. Kate is a difficult act to follow, but I'm determined to ensure that the Group continues to thrive.

Finance & Communications: Keith Dalby as Treasurer has done a commendable job keeping the Group's finances in a healthy position and this puts us in a good position to fund some important activities in 2026, including First Aid Training and Walk Leader Training. Richard Primmer continues to very effectively and efficiently carry out the role of Secretary, ensuring Group and Committee business is communicated and conducted correctly, as well producing a quarterly newsletter and overseeing our website and social media content.

Membership: At the November 2025 AGM, Sarah Anderson took over the role of Membership Secretary from Martin Hill who had done an excellent job in the role for many years. This coincided with the transfer to Pocklington Group of 56 members of the recently disbanded Howden & Goole Group, who we are pleased to welcome. As a result, we now have 200 members.

Walking: Tony Ashbridge the Group's Walks Organiser worked hard throughout 2025 to ensure we had a full and varied walks programme, with walks on offer on Wednesdays and Sundays most weeks of the year, supplemented by a few additional walks on other days of the week. Most walks are well attended. The group is lucky to have a pool of over 20 walk leaders, most with a lot of experience. Tony Ashbridge supported by several Committee Members, conducted a well-attended walk leaders' training session in February 2025 that included guidance for leaders on describing and inputting walks directly into Walks Manager ready for publishing. Good progress is also being made to ensure all walk leaders have the required Ramblers' accreditation in place by the deadline. Our 2026 Walks Programme is already starting to fill up.

Footpaths Work: Under Tony Corrigan's expert leadership, a small group of Pocklington volunteers have continued to carry out footpath maintenance work to help ensure one of Ramblers' fundamental aims; keeping footpaths open and usable. This included two days of work on the East Yorkshire section of the King Charles III Coastal Path. Tony also continued to work solo on identifying public footpaths and helping to challenge closures or other attempts to restrict access. At the Pocklington AGM Tony formally announced that he would discontinue this role, having indicated two years ago that he felt it was time for him to move on. He is still acting as a liaison contact with East Riding Council whilst we find someone willing to take over his role. As this is one of the main charitable aims of the Ramblers, we are keen to keep this as an active volunteering opportunity within the Group and do our bit.

Social: Kate Plumb organised our annual 5-day Group holiday held in the Patterdale Hotel, Lake District in May 2025. It was well attended, members unanimously agreed they had a great time with a good choice of walks, good food, friendly company and even some dancing. Despite all the hard work involved, Kate has yet again volunteered to organise our 2026 holiday based in Skipton and planning is already well underway.

Several walks over the year were organised specifically to enable a convivial gathering afterwards to enjoy tea and cake. A "Coach Ramble" will take place on 29th April & is being organised by Martin Hill, this will involve walks from Pateley Bridge followed by a meal.

Wider Activities: Once again Pocklington Group was actively involved in the very successful East Riding Festival of Walking and Outdoors. Martin Hill took a leading role, helping to develop the programme as well as leading several walks.

Ged Leach (Chair)



Ryedale Group

A small committee has maintained a programme of well supported Sunday walks and a few social events. We thank our dedicated team of regular leaders including those from other groups who led nearly half the walks. A summer walk/social from Goathland attracted good numbers at a time when the moorland fire caused cancellations elsewhere.

We're managing the changing policy on walk leader training, coupled with some frustration in updating central records. Currently, 19 out of 29 – 65%, are updated. This is encouraging but might end in the loss of nearly a third of our leaders.

Several members have devoted time to footpath issues. This has included casework at Terrington, Gilling East and Ellerburn, as well as survey work for the North York Moors NPA. We thank Tony Corrigan for his advice and support.

Financial management is good. Ryedale Group is now managing the booking, administration and finance associated with the annual Derwent Bank holiday. The future is encouraging with active members emerging and a stable membership of around 105.

Several members represent Ryedale Ramblers through engagement with other agencies and groups. Chair is a member of Howardian Hills National Landscape Joint Advisory Committee. Many members, together with others from York and

Scarborough groups carry out volunteer path clearance and survey work for North York Moors NPA.

John Motley (Chair)



Scarborough Group

Our current membership is 122. We had 106 members at the beginning of the year and since then had 28 new members, an increase of 15%, with 11 members leaving. We completed 64 walks, our average attendance per walk was 13 (ranging from 3 to 26). We currently have 29 walk leaders, 17 of whom have completed the new online training.

Our AGM was held on the 30th November with 31 attendees, preceded by a short walk in the morning. Gary Malcolm resigned as chairman and Rachel Carlin was unanimously voted in as the new chair. We operate with a full committee with the exception of a footpath secretary. At the AGM a motion was put forward about the newly imposed walk leader training by one of the members as follows:

“Scarborough Ramblers urges the Ramblers nationally to withdraw its latest directive on walk safety i.e. the video and questionnaire, before it loses yet more experienced leaders. In future the Ramblers should consult with its members in the groups before imposing regulations on its walk leaders, who are the life blood of the organisation”.

A vote was taken and the result was FOR 14 and AGAINST 8 - the motion was therefore carried.

19 members took part in the footpath surveys this year, one session in May and the other in November; 75 paths were surveyed. The overall outcome is based on "is the path easily usable" and the result was 80% passed, 19% failed and 1% closed. The main problems encountered were with styles, gates and bridges needing repair. Some paths were blocked by fallen trees or fences, eroded path surfaces and overgrowth blocking the paths.

We held a number of great social events throughout the year culminating in our Christmas mince pie and mulled wine walk on the 14th December. 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 2026.

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 recces 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

York Ramblers held their AGM on 12th November with over 40 members in attendance. The Chair reported that all walk sections are thriving, despite a number of challenges. Membership remains stable at 427, though there has been a turnover of 31 members.

Walk Sections: Judith Tosh had previously announced that she would be stepping down from coordinating York Amblers Walks as of this year's AGM. She received a Certificate of Appreciation for her many years of dedicated service. Lynn Dickie was warmly welcomed into the Amblers coordinator role.

One of the most pressing issues continues to be how to maintain an adequate pool of walk leaders in all sections. Although some York sections have been struggling, Ian Gibbs, on behalf of the Ryedale Group, wanted to acknowledge that of 45 walks offered by Ryedale in the past year, 21 were led by York members, to whom he was very grateful.

Coach Ramble: On Sunday 29th June, 44 walkers took advantage of the opportunity to walk slightly further afield on one of three great linear guided walks all converging on the beautiful village of Kettlewell. At £16 per person, the event covered its costs. Suggestions are invited for where we might walk next year, with possible routes.

New Walk Leader regulations: Mike Norman reported great success in getting leaders to re-register under the new system. He said that we currently have 58 qualified leaders, several of whom have self-certified. Some are members elsewhere, but also occasionally lead for York. Several more are in the process of doing the training. We have 29 leaders listed as not yet qualified, however some of these folk are no longer active and are in the process of being removed from the list.

Footpaths: David Nunn's team looking after access and planning issues is operating under increased pressure as it continues to shrink. Following Vera Silberberg's passing and Doreen Felton stepping down, just two members remain. We are actively looking for new recruits.

Footpath monitoring, coordinated by Steve Hoather, is running well. Out of our 84 parishes or parish groups, 72 were fully surveyed in the calendar year 2024 and so far, 49 have been surveyed this year. We currently lack volunteers for six parishes.

Website: Both Mike Norman and Tom Halstead report that our website is working well. It has received 30,000 unique visits in the last year (about 80 per day) and one million hits in total. Mike was thanked for managing the records of all our walks, which is a demanding task.

Tony Tew- secretary

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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.