



ramblers
at the heart of walking

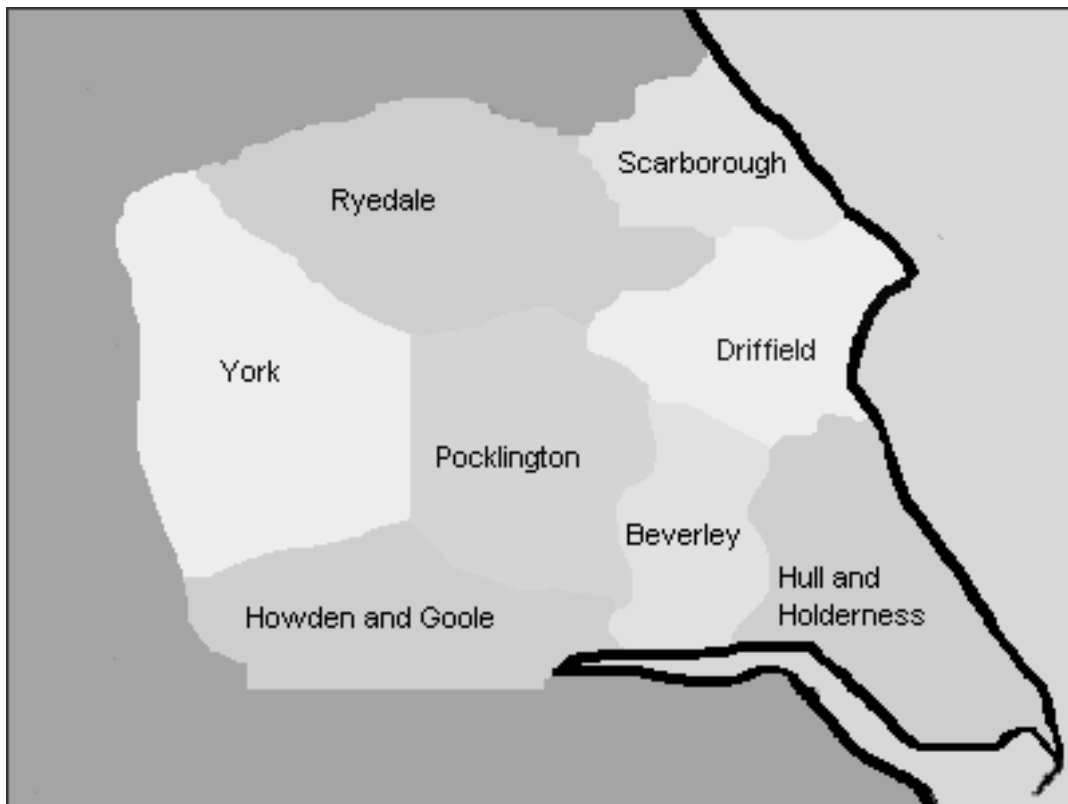
“ The RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION
promotes rambling, protects rights of way,
campaigns for access to open country
and defends the beauty of the countryside. ”

ANNUAL REPORT

2008 - 2009

East Yorkshire & Derwent Area

www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk



The Ramblers' Association is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales.
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www.ramblers.org.uk

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Our AGM is the opportunity to celebrate the hard work and achievements of all our volunteers who, over the past year, have helped to make walking such a pleasurable experience for all our members. These achievements are set out in the Annual Report and make very stimulating reading. If I were to pick out just one theme from our achievements it would be about the annual programme of over 500 walks. The sheer number of walks offered is impressive but so is the continuing innovation in the type of walks provided – public transport walks, themed walks, summer evening walks, longer distance walks and walking holidays – congratulations to all concerned!

This has been an important year for our Association with the publication of 3 major policy initiatives; the new 5-year plan, entitled 'Fresh Air, Firm Ground'; a new Rights of Way Strategy and a draft Code of Conduct for members. Fresh Air, Firm Ground sets out 4 key aims for our Association; working to create a high-quality walking environment; broadening our appeal as a walking charity; communicating our work; maintaining an effective organisation. The Rights of Way Strategy, whilst affirming our long-term aspiration to have 100% routes open and usable, nevertheless recognises the need to prioritise activities to ensure that resources are focussed on work that yields the greatest public benefit. The draft Code of Conduct sets out the values we wish to promote among our membership and in our relationships with outside parties.

Together, these initiatives attempt to address a major challenge facing our Association; the lack of resources to undertake everything we have set ourselves to do. We are Britain's largest walking charity but people do not have to join the RA to enjoy walking – they are perfectly entitled to enjoy the fruits of our labours, free! Our current membership stands at 139,000 but we need more members in order to fund our activities and to give us the 'social and political' influence enjoyed by other major charities.

What does all this mean for our Area? The new initiatives have given our Area committees a new focus of attention. Put simply, it is what the Areas do that will determine the success or otherwise of the RA's aims. Your Area committees are actively engaged in the process of translating the four key aims into Area plans. There is much to do but we are starting from a sound basis of solid achievements in the past.

Finally, one pressing problem that I would like to share with you is the matter of succession to key posts in the Area. We still need an Area Secretary to replace Malcolm Dixon who has continued to deliver an excellent service despite his onerous work commitments. Colin Mullender, our much respected treasurer also wishes to stand down at the end of this financial year.

We do need enthusiastic volunteers to come forward to maintain the work of our Area committees. We are mindful of the time commitments involved in committee work and we are aware of the increasing demands placed upon individuals, in the workplace and in home and family life. Accordingly, we shall be seeking the approval at the AGM to streamline our committee structure and reduce the number of formal committee meetings by half with more of our work being delegated to small teams/working groups.

To anyone who is interested in helping us, I would say that these are exciting times and there are many interesting projects to get involved in – and we are prepared to do all we can to fit the job to the individual's needs and commitments. In this, my first year as Area Chairman I would like to thank all of you who have made such a significant contribution to our Area activities. Thanks and let's keep up the good work! **Peter Leese**

Area Secretary's Report

**"We want Britain to be a place
where people choose to go walking,
and where it's easy and enjoyable to do so"**

Governance at Area and National level has dominated events over the last 12 months. Taking out a tier at Area level has meant fewer meetings, but we haven't got the number right yet as additional meetings have had to be arranged and we still need to sort out the Standing Orders that operate in the background.

Nationally events have been overtaken by the financial crisis that hit the Ramblers in Spring 2009. Quite frankly, as an organisation, we had been living beyond our means for the last few years and relying on legacy income to bail us out and keep us afloat. When it was realised that due to a number of financial factors that this was no longer sustainable, drastic action had to be taken which has resulted in 17 Ramblers' employees losing their jobs and the closure of the RA's offices in Scotland & Wales although our work there will carry on. There has been much restructuring at Central Office as a result and better (& overdue) financial management systems have been put in place. A business plan and balanced budget have been drawn up for the next 12 months. Ramblers' activities & campaigns have continued throughout this period albeit some at a reduced capacity. More communication will be done electronically, which doesn't suit everybody, but is much quicker and cheaper.

One of the better outcomes of this crisis has been an improvement in communications between the CEO, Board of Trustees and Ramblers – at least at Area, if not at more local, level. Equally this has brought about a great deal of criticism from members at the way the Ramblers has been run over the past few years and had not seen the crisis coming. Also there is concern about some of the decisions made and strategies drawn up. Moves into promoting walking by the RA, because it could attract Government support & finance, have been contrasted with moves away from more controversial policies of engaging with Local Authorities and landowners to keep all rights of way clear, usable and waymarked.

Many of the arguments, and personalities involved, predate the present financial crisis (now largely under control) and will continue for some time to come. They are likely to dominate proceedings at the 2010 General Council.

Also taking up too much time and effort at all levels over the last 18 months has been the introduction of a revamped members' database system. Introduced as "all singing and dancing" it has proved at times to be barely able to move a step or speak above a whisper! It has proved very frustrating for membership officers at all levels. We keep being promised improvements but they are slow arriving.

Also revamped was a 'Walk Leader's Checklist'. Originally intended as just that, it has become seen as over prescriptive and asking too much of our volunteer walk leaders, some of whom have questioned whether they want to continue doing something they enjoy doing if it involves so much responsibility, form filling and the possibility of being sued. We understand this was not the intention of the CO staff who drew it up and issued it, but it has left many with doubts and we hope to issue an Area document that will redress the balance between the responsibilities of the walk leader and those of the individual coming on our walks.

This year also saw the RA sporting a new logo and calling itself just "The Ramblers". Although now largely accepted, it was controversial with many members, who thought it unnecessary and, however desirable, could have suggested many other ways for the resources involved to have been better used.

On a brighter note, the Ramblers' campaign for coastal access proved successful, although it will probably be some time before we see the promised continuous path around Britain's coastline.

Access to many upland areas still proves problematical, although it has been good to see the ERYC sponsored booklet of walks on access land being published. This will be followed by a similar one for the North Yorkshire area during 2010.

Work will soon be starting on the decadal review of the CRoW Act and we must make sure we get more of what was promised by that Act on the ground and move it nearer its Scottish equivalent. We still need to see the 2026 deadline on recording historic rights of way repealed and/or more resources being put into getting this valuable work completed before that date.

The 'credit crunch', that may have had its effects on the Ramblers finances, will certainly have an effect on local Council funding, especially as Government, of whichever hue, start cutting back on their grants and allowances. Footpath, stile and bridge remedial work, along with Rights of Way Improvement Plans and Definitive map work, never too high on any Local Authority priority list (although this varies) are all likely to fall even lower down, unless we keep up our campaigning and lobbying work on these issues. This is despite the recognition of the importance and popularity of walking throughout our Area for health, recreational and tourism needs.

A case proved by the continuous popularity of the Wolds Way and Cleveland Way footpaths after some 40 years. However, as designated 'National Trails' they are likely to always get priority. A similar emphasis must be given to all our Rights of Way.

Please read through the various sections of this Annual Report and see the many successes (or otherwise) that we've had in this Area and amongst our individual local Ramblers Groups. Walking remains one of the most enjoyable and popular pastimes and we all aim to keep it that way by either organising a regular and varied walks programme open to all, or by our campaigning work which aim to keep all paths open and accessible. Our thanks to all our many members who volunteer to lead such activities. We may have our differences as individuals but its great to see the many instances of members of our Groups working and walking together and welcoming others, either new to walking or new to the area, into their fold.

I usually finish my piece with a plea for more of our members, whether new or long-standing, to come forward and offer to help these stalwart volunteers at either Group or area level. This year will be no different – we still need you! So do come forward. We reckon that after five years, and often sooner, most people need a rest and it gives us the chance to involve new faces and introduce fresh ideas and activities.

2010 will be the Ramblers 75th Anniversary so there will be plenty of additional walks and activities to get involved in (and to organise).

It doesn't have to be just committee work, important though that is, you can lead a walk, check and repair footpaths, or distribute leaflets and help publicise the Ramblers in all our glory and activities.

So don't be backward in coming forward. Contact your local Group Chairman or Secretary and see what needs doing or what you can offer to do.

And, in the meantime, lets all get out there and enjoy our walking.

Malcolm Dixon, Area Secretary

Footpath Secretaries Reports

1) East Yorkshire and Hull

Congratulation to the ERYC on discovering evidence, making a DMMO and diverting a footpath at Carnaby within 3 months. This was to enable the councils Park & Ride scheme at Bridlington to go ahead. However we are still waiting after 17 years for ERYC to comply with the Sec of States instructions to produce the order to put a footpath over council's land in Swanland.

There where 3 public inquiries this year. The first was to record Carr House Access Road Burton Pidsea as a Byway Open to All Traffic. Here the objectors withdrew their object the day before the enquiry. The inspector confirmed the order, but now the BHS is complaining that they cannot ride the way until the ERYC clears some of its 27 foot width. This claim was made in 1993 by the H & H footpath sec and is for only part of the claimed route. The other end is delayed because although the Parish Council what's the order, the landowner wants it diverting.

The second inquiry was for a ten foot in the Avenues in Hull. This failed because the inspector said to much of the evidence was from cyclists. The applicant has now put is a new application for a restricted byway.

The third one also in Hull was for a footpath under a house, the objectors failed to turn up, so the inspector agreed the path was public, and it is now open.

With regards to our "Lost ways project", our second schedule 14 has resulted in the order being published in July, however it has been objected to. The first order has been determined in our favour, so we await the publication of the order. The other applications are grinding their way though the system. The Ramblers believe that "**all public rights of way should be shown on the definitive map at their correct status**". Most of the claimed PRow sofar have been for Byways, and often have widths of 30 feet or more. Byways cannot be ploughed. ERYC keep talking about downgrading to bridle ways (my personal view is they should be kept as byways or downgraded to footpaths) which would reduce the width and allow ploughing. If however a Traffic Regulation Order is made it protects the width and surface, and someday it may be reinstated.

In June I submitted our first schedule 14 to Hull CC. and to date have not had a reply. Hopefully they will produce their Rights of Way Improvement Plan this year, which will only be 2 years late, but what can you expect when they only budget £13,000 (5p per person) per year.

Last year I said "*Hornsea 12 will take a lot of officer time to solve, and will be in my report for many years to come, but that is not ERYC fault*" I was wrong, by the time you read this the problems will have been cleared.

Easington 3 has been opened after **29** years. We held out to have the route "limitation free". The BHS and BBT. considered the bridle gates dangerous and successfully got them removed.

The highlight of the year was the erection of a new bridge on Bilton 3. Here the bridge became dangerous in Feb 2007, so the ERYC made it unusable. The landowner then asked for a diversion, with the support of the Parish Council. However the locals produced a partition with over 350 names objecting to the diversion and asking for a

new bridge. ERYC officers knew they would fail to get the Sec of State to approve the diversion and so replaced the bridge this spring.

In Feb I was invited to a meeting at the Beverley Youth Hostel. There had been a lot of "anti social behaviour", with teenagers using the foot railway bridge as a vantage point to throw stone at cars and the windows of the hostel. The locals, Ward Councillor, YHA, Rail track and British rail police all wanted the bridge closed. There was support to keep the bridge from the Minster, the property developer, and Humberside Police. Despite ERYC saying the footbridge was not a PRoW, there was historical evidence it was public and my statement that it would take 4 years to get it closed my have helped the police, because next time they sent a car to each end of the bridge and arrested one youth. The area is now peaceful, and the bridge is going to be put on the definitive map.

On the other side, we failed to persuade the inspector to increase the width of Bridleway 15 at Hatfield from 4 to 5 metres. In Sept. 2008 we agreed to a diversion of footpath 12 at Bugthorpe for Lord Halifax. A year has now gone and the work to bring the footpath into use has still not been completed.

Back in May we had a walk to celebrate the opening of West Beck Bridge a missing link, replaced after 30 years of work by the Ramblers. Shame we didn't get any national recognition in the Walk Magazine, but maybe CO has forgotten what the Ramblers is all about!!!

Mike Jackson, Footpath Sec, East Riding of Yorkshire

2) York and North Yorkshire

Chris Bush is our Footpath Secretary for York and North Yorkshire. He forwards statutory PROW Consultations received via RA Central Office on to our Local Groups, who also often receive these and other consultations on Path Order or planning matters directly or indirectly affecting PROW direct from the Local Authorities. Over 80 such items have been discussed within the Local Groups over the year. Financial constraints affect the work on PROW in both York and NYCC.

In York there has not been much progress with either the City of York Definitive Map, or Public Path Orders in the pipeline. However a separate funding stream has seen over 30 proposed Alley-gating orders formulated, of which a few have been withdrawn or amended after consultations have taken place.

On a positive note the City has recently appointed Joanne Coote as their Definitive Map Officer. Joanne used to work for NYCC at Fulford, so has detailed knowledge of the Parishes around York.

We are still concerned that NYCC is falling behind with scheduled work and problems reported to them, with over 10,000 unresolved issues on their Rights of Way outside the National Parks as a result of their now completed Condition Survey of all their PROW. The survey enabled York Group members to complete the RA Challenge of walking all the paths in the Group area and other parts of Selby District. NYCC hope to use their Countryside Volunteers to start the next survey of all their paths outside the National Parks early in 2010.

The Local Ease Of Use Indicator (formerly BVPI) for 2008/09 was 58% and it is anticipated to be higher than this for the 2009 Sample Surveys. NYCC believe they are just about holding their own now, with some concerted action on specific problems over the year, such as their twice-yearly ploughing and cropping action, signposting (one-off extra £30k), seasonal undergrowth clearance programme using contractors (236 km), 20 short span bridges (one-off extra £150k) and an annual amount specifically for large bridges (£200k).

David Nunns represents the Area on the NYCC PROW Liaison Group, which is not as effective as it has been in the past. This is not surprising in view of continuing reorganisations and staff changes. Iain Burgess, the previous PROW & Definitive Map Manager, was made redundant during the year and is now the Nidderdale AONB Area Ranger. Aidan Rayner is now the PROW Manager and Penny Noake Definitive Map Manager. The 3 RA areas covering NYCC had a constructive meeting with Aidan following his appointment.

David attended the Hambleton Area Ranger Team 2 Local Liaison Group meetings and also, along with Les Atkinson and Peter Leese, the East Area Ranger Team 3 LLG meetings. The latter Team of Brian Mullins and 3 Rangers now cover all NYCC East of the A1/A1(M), apart from Hambleton District and the NYM NP. We would like to thank those local group members who have helped with our task over the year and would encourage some more Volunteers to assist with footpath checking and other tasks.

We would particularly like Volunteers interested in the Selby area, between West Yorkshire and the East Riding, as Wakefield Met and Wetherby RA Groups are short of Volunteers for this area.

In addition we would ask all members to report any problems or issues they come across on walks (by letter or e-mail) and suggest secateurs should be carried at all times.

If reporting any issues or problems by e-mail, it is better to put a single item on each e-mail and if possible attach a photograph of the item.

E-mail: paths@northyorks.gov.uk , rightsofway@york.gov.uk
David Nunns, York Group Footpath Secretary

Rambles Secretary's Report

The 2008 – 2009 walks programme has been completed & distributed successfully.

Thanks are due to all who made a contribution – leaders, back markers, Group Programme organisers etc.

It had been intended to re-publish the walks programme in April to include the various evening and additional walks offered during the year. However, it's now been decided not to go ahead with this on cost grounds, so these details will be published in April's Area News and on the Area Website: (www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk).

Roy Hunt (Area Programme Compiler)

Area Access Officer's Report

- 1. Access Walks in North Yorkshire booklet.** Ten approximately 10-mile walks that take advantage of CROW open access land outside the National Parks will be included in the booklet. The walks have been chosen and are being written up by Ramblers' volunteers from the Area and the booklet will be published by the North Yorkshire County Council. The project was "pump-primed" by a grant from Ramblers' Central Office and all other production costs will be covered by the NYCC. The titles: Bowland, Scar, Stean, Dallow, Allerston, Heslerton, Fordon, Vessey Pasture, Water Dale and Burdale, give some indication of the location of the walks. There are some outstanding problems with short sections of the routes for the last three walks (in the Wolds), which the county Rights of Way officers, with the cooperation of officials from Natural England are currently trying to resolve. Descriptions, maps, routes, etc. for the other seven walks are nearing completion and are with the graphics designer. Publication is expected in early 2010.
- 2. Coastal Access.** The latest news is that the Marine and Coastal Access (MCA) Bill had its Second Reading debate on 23 June. The Bill will now be reprinted to incorporate the changes made during committee consideration of the Bill and is waiting for its Report stage on the floor of the House. Part 9 of the Bill provides the framework for establishing a new right of access to the English coast, through the creation of a route that people may walk along the length of the English coast, and access to a wider margin of land for the purpose of outdoor recreation. An Order will be made ensure that coastal land is included within the CROW Act's description of land to which the public has a right of access. Defra has issued a consultation welcomes the public's views on the changes proposed to make. The closing date for this consultation is 1 December 2009. The sub-committee intends to make its views known via the Coastal Access Team at Central Office, Ramblers being on the list of organizations (which also includes LAFs) invited to respond.

Tom Halstead, Area Access Officer

Area Membership Report

Our Area membership at 30th September 2009 was 2157 plus 25 affiliated clubs, compared to 2077 at the previous year-end. We attracted 269 new members during the year with a net increase of 80; 189 members allowed their subscription to lapse or resigned or died.

The Group figures are as follows:

Group	New Members	Total on 30.9.2009	Increase/Decrease in year
Beverley	34	358	+04
Driffild	16	91	+07
Hull & Holderness	25	225	-08
Pocklington	29	224	+10
Ryedale	09	196	-12
Scarborough	16	126	-03

York	79	741	+34
Young Peoples Group (GYBO)	32	102	+35
Goole/Howden	22	87	+13
Unattached to Grou	07	07	+00
TOTAL	269	2157	+80

In addition to the above we also have 25 Affiliated Clubs.

Some progress has been made during the year with the new membership database at central office, but inaccuracies, anomalies and delays still occur, if you have been affected by this please accept my apologies on behalf of Central Office.

We continue to send out questionnaires to all new members in our Area, this has had some very positive results particularly with finding new recruits for footpath surveys.

Ann Laing, Area Membership Secretary

Area Countryside Officer's Report 2008-2009

1. Renewable energy: an emerging trend is for the local authority to reject an application for a wind farm, only for the Planning Inspectorate to overturn the decision on appeal. The latest inquiry was for Sixpenny Wood near Howden. John Prescott MP has recently urged councils to allocate land for wind farms.

2. Country Shows, Green Fairs, Exhibitions: 15 members from several groups worked hard at the Area stand at the Drifffield Show in July. Our Groups have organized stands at least twelve events. All these efforts undoubtedly help recruitment.

3. School Science Fairs: we gave workshops on walking and the environment to hundreds of eleven-year-olds at the York Railway Museum in March and Brayton College Selby in June - thanks to Tom Halstead for vital support. I also judged for the Ramblers at a competition for science projects in Yorkshire secondary schools.

4. Meetings attended and consultations: Transpennine Trail annual meeting; National Trails review; East Yorkshire Wolds Tourism Partnership Trails sub group; ERYC Biodiversity Workshop; Hull CC Renewable Energy Symposium; ERYC Accessible Green Space Strategy; East Riding and Hull Joint Local Access Forum; East Riding and North Yorkshire LEADER funding programme for rural development; consultations on Hull CC local action plans with better provision for pedestrians.

5. General: following the stringencies in Ramblers' funding announced in May, it is unclear what areas of countryside work Central Office will be able to support. Information and guidance to volunteers is now mainly restricted to postings on the web.

Finally, warm thanks to Monica Nelson and Dennis Parker of York and Beverley Groups, respectively, for their continued hard work for the countryside and the environment. Dennis has handed over responsibility for wind farm applications in East Yorkshire, having dealt with them since 1997 - a remarkable achievement.

Peter Ayling, Area Countryside Officer

Treasurer's Report

Whilst it is the case that the level of cash reserves we have been able to bring forward over recent years has enabled the Area to "do it's bit" in mitigating against financial difficulties at the centre, it has to be said that this needs to be a "one-off" effort.

The need is therefore for Area spending to be carefully held within the constraints of our budget for 2010; and thought possibly given to a degree of fund raising within the Area in order to restore some reserves.

In response to CO instructions we have reduced our budget for 2010 by £2,400 to £10,000 and increased the Area contribution to £3,500 (£2,400) with donations/sales/interest etc at £500. Our expenditure in 2009 was also within budget in all principal categories but at the fourth quarter our CO agreed entitlement was reduced by £1,500, thus producing an overspend at bottom line on receipts and payments. Added to this, interest levels in the second half of the year (as advised by the bank at 30th September) are now virtually zero; also increased postages on the packaging of Area News, in its improved and desirable format, have increased substantially, and maybe external advertising should be re-considered.

This report is really an overview of where we are today in EY&D; we are not dealing with big numbers but need to be conscious of trends, so that, contrary to some views held, we need to be able to generate and maintain a level of reserves which protects the area as far as possible from external pressures, ie if we are to work effectively for the benefit of walkers.

Groups need to do "their bit" also and the revised formula for grants in 2010 lays emphasis on the need to combat natural wastage and particularly retain their paid up membership after year one.

By the time this is published my term of office will be completed and I take the opportunity of thanking all who have assisted me in many ways over the last six years for their patience and co-operation.

On behalf of the Area I also thank Vivienne Harnan for her helpful approach as auditor.

Colin Mullender, Area Treasurer

RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION – EAST YORKSHIRE AND DERWENT AREA
ACCOUNTS FOR PERIOD TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2009

	£	£	£	£
		2009		2008
RECEIPTS				
Area Entitlement		7500		10000
Donations and Sundry items		72		383
Dividend (RA Services)		10		12
Bank Interest (Unity Bank)		45		257
Sale of Publications and Badges		173		67
Minster Way Book Sales		763		9
AGM Sundries		0		0
		8563		10728
EXPENDITURE				
ACCESS		165		193
COUNTRYSIDE		204		173
PROMOTING WALKING				
Area News & Programmes	3977		4039	
Membership Secretary	328		282	
Publicity	421	4726	904	5225
RIGHTS OF WAY & FOOTPATH		675		540
PROJECTS				
Group Development	0		231	
ROW Computer	0		519	
Yorkshire Wolds Way (Walks	0	0	128	878
GRANTS TO GROUPS		1792		1410
ADMINISTRATION				
AGM Expenses	64		130	
Annual Report	898		550	
General Council Observers	297		157	
Meeting Halls	284		290	
Subscriptions	40		30	
Other Admin Costs	465	2048	445	1602
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		9610		10021
MOVEMENT IN FUNDS +(-)		(1047)		707

RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION – EAST YORKSHIRE AND DERWENT AREA

STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS at 30 SEPTEMBER 2009

	<u>2009</u>		<u>2008</u>	
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Fixed Assets - Written Down Value		0		0
Total Net Book Value	a	0		0
(In accordance with RA Policy, only items costing over £5000 are to be capitalised and shown as Fixed Assets. The Area owns display boards, lap top computer, flag and gazebo costing less than this value)				
Current Assets				
Shares in R A Services Ltd – at Cost	225		225	
Balance at Unity Trust Bank	<u>7508</u>		<u>8555</u>	
Total Current Assets	b	7733		8780
Total Assets	a + b	<u>7733</u>		<u>8780</u>
Accumulated Fund				
At 1 October 2008		8780		8073
Excess of Income over Payments		(1047)		707
		<u>7733</u>		<u>8780</u>

The above reflects the position on a receipts and payments basis.

I certify that the above accounts have been prepared in accordance with Ramblers' Association guidance, that they reflect accurately the transactions of the Area during the financial year and of the state of affairs at 30 September 2009 and that the records have been properly kept and payments authorised in accordance with area council policy during the year.

Signed

Vivienne Harnan

(Vivienne Harnan)

22nd October 2009

Beverley RA Group Footpath Volunteers

"Another satisfying year to report during which we maintained our commitment on a monthly basis, excepting January. Our luck with the weather continued apart from our December visit to Huggate when we enjoyed a Christmas "pie and chips" lunch with our East Riding Access team friends which rescued us from the elements. In better weather we visited Melbourne twice (to instal kissing gates ,) Barmby on the Marsh for more kissing gates, also Kirkburn, Hempholme, Beeford, Brandsburton, Sproatley, Cottingham, Burton Pidsea, and Little Weighton.

In August we said goodbye to Ken Russ after the path relaying session at Cottingham and his final virtuoso shoveller performance. Ken was instrumental in setting up our team and we thank him for all his efforts and his good company. We also said hello to Andy Norman and George Duffield during the year . and we hope to see them again.

This report submitted by **Ivor Jones** on behalf of the team, and with thanks to them, namely Peter Ayling, Ray Fielden, Geoff Hodges, and Paul Picard."

York RA Working Party Report

The team were very active again throughout the year carrying out safety and remedial work at the following locations:-

Birkin -	Metal gate fitted in place of damaged stile.
Beal -	Metal gate installed in new fence line.
Cliffe -	Two sleeper bridge constructed over dyke.
Kirk Smeaton -	4 stiles replaced by metal gates. This task proved to be extremely arduous due to much digging in rocky ground.
Cawood -	Hay raking at Castle Garth and building new fence along the moatside.
Ulleskelf -	4 kissing gate enclosures installed at existing gate positions on Great Ings.
Muston -	4 stiles replaced by metal gates along the route of the public footpath from Muston to Gristhorpe.
Drax -	Damaged stile replaced by a metal gate, also fallen tree cleared from Right of Way on Wren Hall Lane.
Walden Stubbs	Damaged stile replaced by metal kissing gate.
Newton Kyme -	Following reports of an accident on the right of way at Bond Ings, urgent safety work including removal of stiles, fitting metal gates, widening the footpath and erecting safety rails over the sluice gate was completed to avoid further problems.
Tadcaster -	Safety rails fixed to existing concrete path over the sluice gate at Smaws Bridge.
Towton -	Complete redecking of bridge over Cock Beck at GR482405.

In conclusion, I have to report that I have decided to retire from the working party but fortunately have recruited Stan Cooper as my replacement for 2010. I am sure that he will experience the real pleasure and satisfaction that I have enjoyed over recent years as a team member .

Alan Clark

Area Webmaster's report

It is now five years since a small group of volunteers set up the Area website, **www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk**. Once the Area website was up and running several of our Groups closed down their own websites. However, we may now have members with the relevant skills who might wish to create or revive a Group website. This would spread out the task of updating the group pages by adding, for example, recent photos and news items. Links could be provided to Group websites from the Area website as is the case with GYBO and York groups at present.

Five years on it is perhaps time to review the whole site and give it a bit of a facelift. If anyone is interested in helping with this, do please contact me. I apologise for various hitches during the year when technical problems and a prolonged absence from home prevented me from updating pages as often and as thoroughly as I would have wished. I am always grateful to anyone who lets me know when they spot material which is out-of date or requires modifying.

Dany Wlodarczyk Webmaster

Area News Report

We have continued to produce three 8-page issues this year for mail-shots in January, April and September with half of the pages of each edition in colour. We are very grateful to all our contributors. 'Rambling Rose' continues to provide advice to help solve our thorny problems and our current Area President, Ann Holt has given us some fascinating glimpses into the social history of walking as well as introducing us to some of the early pioneers of walkers' rights.

Please let us know if you wish to nominate someone to be featured in our series of profiles of Area or Group volunteers and please do continue to send in articles, favourite walks and tips. Group news and photos are always welcome as well as poems, puzzles and book reviews.

Back issues of Area News as far back as September, 2004, are available for reference on the NEWS page of:- www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk

Paul Rhodes and Dany Wlodarczyk Co-editors

East Yorkshire & Derwent Ramblers Area

– Group Reports

Beverley Group

We have expanded our walks programme again this year and made it more varied by recruiting more leaders, offering more themed walks, introducing public transport and family-friendly walks and promoting walks aimed at new members. On average about 25 ramblers take part in our Sunday walks, with considerably fewer on Wednesdays. Our Christmas Lunch attracted 36 diners and about 28 of us did the pre-lunch walk.

For the second summer running Colin Mullender is leading on the 3-stage High Hunsley Circuit. The Beverley Coach Ramble to Derbyshire in May attracted 35, including ramblers from York, Howden and Goole, Hull and Pocklington; 23 of us walked at Hathersage and the remainder visited Chatsworth House.

Our social programme is flourishing and Beverley members continue to play a prominent part in the Footpath Working Party which collaborates throughout the year with the local authority in improving the footpath network. We have secured funding to publish (hopefully later this year) a 20 page booklet of local walks annotated by the distinguished botanist, Dr. Derrick Boatman.

Our Publicity Secretary, Peter Ayling continues to head an impressive publicity and recruitment campaign. (The details of which are given in our reply to the Area Questionnaire on Publicity.)

Our Countryside Secretary, Dennis Parker, is to be congratulated on fighting a long and successful campaign to improve the safety provision for walkers in the plans for the Beverley Southern Relief Road.

Jean Cavill and Gerry Wallace

Driffield Group

The Group has successfully organised 11 walks mainly on the Wolds with two others, one on Blakey Ridge, North York Moors and the other at Coneysthorpe, near the Howardian Hills.

Rights of Way: -

- a) After meeting Mike Jackson at the Area AGM, Yvonne Nadin has started listing the snickets in Bridlington for registering.
- b) The East Riding of Yorkshire Council's budget to improve the Driffield to Beverley footpath has been spent. This is part of the high Priority River Hull corridor. Now, due to staffing cuts, no further movement has occurred with the Council's proposal to continue on from Whinhill Lock. We are left with dangerous road-walking to Wansford and Brigham.

In April Don Laing suggested, for road walking, that we get high visibility and waterproof rucksack covers, with the Ramblers Logo on. He sent to Central Office this idea of promotion as a supplement to the high visibility waistcoats, which are hidden when the walker puts on a rucksack. Subsequently he is writing to 'Walk' magazine.

- c) The secretary received an E-mail from Nick Watson about his relative Oliver Sedman, past chairman of Driffield Ramblers. It concerns the short path from the

lane and across the first bungalow's lawn to the Town Lock at Riverhead. The Definitive Map Modification Order was made for this 140 metres canal side path. Approval is awaited, after the one objection has been withdrawn.

Publicity: - a) Peter Ayling publicised a walk and opening ceremony of the modified footbridge at the junction of West Beck with the Driffield Canal. This was on 4th May (Bank Holiday). Mike Jackson led the 5 mile circular walk from Brigham, when over fifty members and non-members came. Some expressed a wish to join the RA and were given membership forms.

b) The Group advertised as a short summer's evening walk open to all to encourage new members to join us. Ron Thompson led a 4 to 5 miles circular evening walk from Nafferton Mere. This was followed by a free supper at the Blue Bell Inn. Nearly all the walkers were members already and we failed to attract non-members.

c) The descriptive East Riding Wolds walks packs are still selling, with Scarborough Tourist office taking another 12. Three were sold on the Driffield Show stand.

John Jefferson, Driffield Group Secretary

GYBO – EY&D Area Young Peoples' Group

Weekends away - Slaidburn in Forest of Bowland, Crianlarich in Scotland, Brecon Beacons, Langdale in Lakes, Derwentwater in Lakes

Membership - numbers hard to assess but many walks now with 20+ walkers. Walks at start of year plus Millington more recently with 30+. Many new members arriving all the time who quickly become active members.

Social events - ice skating in York, Xmas meal, continuing monthly social at Brigantes in York, carols concert at Rievaulx Abbey, York brewery tour (joint event with Darlington and Dales group), birthday dinner in Beverley, curry night in York

Long distance walks - Chalkland Way (in 4 stages over summer), Beverley 20, Harrogate Ringway, Penistone Boundary Walk.

Evening walks - seven walks, all well attended

Walks calendar - on average around 2 walks per month (plus numerous walks in & around Thixendale!)

Kelly Temple has taken over as GYBO Chair and Jane Osborne as GYBO Secretary.

Simon Hirst, retiring Chairman

Howden & Goole Group

In the last year the group organised 32 walks including 9 summer walks. Numbers of walkers varied from over 40 (on our blue bell walk) to 5 when it was raining. The average length of our walks was 8 miles, with only 2 walks being longer than 10miles.

We had a number of themed walks this year- the snowdrop walk to Kirk Bramwith, the cowslip walk around North Newbald, the blue bell walk around Millington, the fish & chip walk to Reedness, and the strawberry walk at Airmyn organised by Brenda & Denis Kelly, which finished with us all enjoying strawberries and cream. A number of our walks have involved water, either walking on the banks of the rivers Ouse, Derwent, Aire, Don or a canal.

Nearly all our walks have been within a 35 minute drive of Howden or Goole. This year we tried to be more adventurous, we offered 2 events further afield- a mini

bus day outing to Scarborough and a weekend in the Derbyshire dales. The uptake on both of these was low and disappointing, with only 8 walkers going to Scarborough, whilst the Derbyshire weekend had to be cancelled. In spite of these set backs, the number of walkers continues to grow year by year due to good publicity by the local press. We also had joint walks with both Beverley and York Groups which we enjoyed.

We had a Group Social and Quiz night last January.

Although we've not been able to attend Area Meetings we were able to host the Area AGM last year. Our membership is currently is 86 up from 74 last year. As usual we had a publicity stall at the Howden Show with our new display boards.

Marian Thomas, Howden & Goole Group

Hull & Holderness Group

Whilst the Group has not been able to attract more Members to become Officers of the Group, we were able to put together a very attractive Summer Evening Walks Programme with the help of people from other local Groups. The walks were all well attended and received very positive feedback from participants.

In addition Mike Jackson continues to run his series of walks on Monday afternoons and these also are very well attended. He has also been very active on the local footpath front.

We shall shortly be holding a Planning Meeting in Hull to plan our summer evening & other walks programme and it is hoped that many people will come forward with their views and ideas as to what they would like in place to help them become a Walk Leader and possibly help us out on the committee.

Lynn Clark, Secretary

Pocklington Group

This year Pocklington Group has continued to thrive. We have arranged a full and varied walks programme with walks ranging from 3 miles to 18 miles. Our shorter weekend walks have attracted some new members; our summer evening, weekend and Wednesday walks have proved as popular as ever and our monthly longer walks organised by Jack Hutchinson are still keenly supported. We hope to be catering for all levels walkers whether they want a gentle Sunday afternoon stroll or something a bit more challenging.

The Pocklington Social Walking Group team organised a wide range of social activities for us. We have had: walking weekends away to Kettlewell, Clapham and Hubberholme, and a holiday to Hassness where apparently it was too hot! A very enjoyable coach ramble to Hawes, 2 discos, a barn dance, a quiz, a boat trip, fossil hunting, meals out, gliding and we discovered hidden talents when we were entertained by fellow ramblers at our new year social evening.

We have welcomed 25 new members into our group over the year maintaining a membership of about 240. Following our busy open day on Nov 14th we hope that 2010 will be the year we manage to reach 250.

Sheila Banks, Secretary

Ryedale Group

2009 has been a very busy year for the Ryedale group, with many highs and a few lows. Our Christmas walk and tea in December 2008 proved a great successor to our former walk and carol service. Following a short walk, our ever popular New Year's lunch in January 2009 at the Forest and Vale Hotel, Pickering, was enjoyed by 65 Ramblers.

In May we held a social evening at the War Memorial Hall in Old Malton, when the Randy Monks, an Irish music folk group, entertained over 70 people in an evening of music and singing. Audience participation was not compulsory, but those that joined in did so with great enthusiasm. The band donated their total fee of £300 to Macmillan Cancer Care, which in view of the loss of our friend and fellow walker, Jack Straker, we fully supported.

Also in May, our Chairman led the first part of the Cleveland Way from Helmsley to Sutton Bank, as part of the 40th anniversary celebration organised by the North York Moors National Park Authority. David Rubenstein and Ann Holt were invited as part of the celebration which involved cutting chocolate cake (at 10.00 am!), and presentation of a trophy to the group. The walk was completed by 11 Ramblers and 11 members of the public.

In June, our annual coach ramble took us to Malhamdale, with a choice of three circular walks of different length, followed by a meal at the Millstones. The weather was wonderful and we had some excellent feedback from those who went. This year numbers were down slightly, but there was a very good mix of longer term and new members.

During the summer, we ran publicity stands at the Ryedale Show and, for the first time, the Thornton-le-Dale Show. We felt the Ryedale Show was more successful, as there seemed to be more real interest from the public. The Thornton-le-Dale Show was much more expensive. Attending these shows is hard work, and unfortunately there is no real feedback on whether or not this kind of publicity is effective.

In September, the London Blind Rambling Club spent a week's holiday based in Scarborough, when they enjoyed spectacular weather and five walks, two led by our group, two by Scarborough and one by York. This was the result of many months planning, most of it between our Chairman, and Ted Herbert of the London Blind Rambling Club, with help from Phil Trafford of Scarborough and Malcolm Dixon of York groups. None of this would have happened if our members had not offered their services to help guide the five totally blind and four partially sighted ramblers, along with their three sighted helpers. Most of us were very apprehensive, but as Ted Herbert (who is totally blind) said to me when I walked with him for the first time – "Just follow me and you'll be alright!" Every single one of us who helped has said how much they enjoyed the experience. The only disappointment was that few of the officers from the Area Council were able to help us on any of the walks.

Also in September, the Farnham Ramblers spent a week's holiday based in Helmsley. They approached our group earlier in the year, requesting help in planning their walks, which our Chairman was pleased to give, including leading a walk.

But success is not without its problems. We currently regularly attract in excess of 40 walkers, with a maximum of 52 on one walk. Such large numbers on walks are

having an increasingly negative impact. Some regular walkers have actually turned round and gone home when they have seen the size of the group. Potential leaders are put off at the possibility of having to lead such large groups, and some regular leaders are also unhappy with leading large groups. The answer clearly is to have more walks!

We tried to address this problem by taking a slightly different approach this year when asking for leaders for the next walks programme. We suggested that leaders could choose any distance (from 2-20 miles) and the start time. The response has been very positive, and as well as being able to have a standard walk of 9-11 miles every week, we are also offering walks of many different lengths, starting at various times. We hope this will also encourage new leaders and walkers, and also retain some of our longer serving leaders who may now prefer to lead shorter walks. It has also resulted in a full and more varied programme, and every walk offered was included. The group has made its usual significant input into the Area walks programme, contributing 86 weekend and 13 Wednesday walks.

In addition, we have also been looking at various ways of organising local navigation training, after first trying to measure the level of interest, which was substantial. We decided to use a training package devised by Les Preston, the Kent Area Vice Chairman, as it can be run locally at reasonable cost, this being the purchase of resources which can be re-used. Our first course is planned for Spring 2010, closely followed by another. We hope this will encourage new leaders, and also give some existing leaders more confidence.

In response to a request in Spring 2009 Group News for groups to act as pilots for the new voluntary training package, we contacted Central Office (CO) to register our group's interest. We were disappointed but unsurprised with their response, which merely noted our details with a promise to get back to us in the Autumn. We have heard nothing, and in view of the current problems within the Ramblers, do not expect to do so.

The free first aid training offered by the British Red Cross in rural North Yorkshire, was advertised to our members, but there was little interest.

Our group still does not have a Membership Secretary, so the Secretary continues to act in this role. Despite all the positive messages from CO, we see little improvement, and are dealing with an increasing number of (sometimes angry) queries from members, which CO are failing to address. We continue to actively recruit new members to the committee, and expect to co-opt at least one volunteer, possibly two, during the next year.

Efforts to communicate with members via email continue, with items in our group newsletter. Explaining the advantages (to them, their committee and the Ramblers as a whole) and giving reassurance that their email address will never be revealed to anyone else and that all information will be sent using the blind copy list, mean that take-up is increasing slowly and steadily.

In June, Pickering became the 26th town to achieve "Walkers are Welcome" (WaW) status, an initiative you will all be aware of as its principals are supported by the Ramblers, although it is a totally independent organisation, and whose patron is

Kate Ashbrook. Pickering achieved this in the short space of six months, due to the hard work of its committee. This is chaired by our Ramblers group Chairman, and other committee members include representatives of other local Pickering walking groups, local businesses, the town council and local walkers. Pickering WaW are working closely with North Yorkshire County Council to survey footpaths within the parish of Pickering, identify problems and working towards improvements, a role which complements the role of the Ramblers. They are planning a two day walking festival next April. The only other WaW town in this Ramblers area is Market Weighton.

If anyone is interested in becoming involved in this initiative on behalf of their towns, then the group Chairman and Secretary would be very happy to help in any way they can.

On a less positive note, we have felt angered by derogatory and unjust comments about our committee, our leaders and our members by an AC member. We were also disappointed by the refusal of the AC to distance itself from these comments.

As always, all our walks and social events have been supported by not only Ryedale members, but Ramblers from other groups in our Area, their friends and relatives, and also holidaymakers. We are very pleased and gratified that so many continue to enjoy our company!

Wendy Borman, Group Secretary

Scarborough and District Group Walking.

Group rambles organiser, Ray Johnson has co-ordinated a full programme of Sunday Walks and weekly evening walks during the summer. The group took part in the 40th anniversary celebration of the creation of the Cleveland Way, by walking the Ravenscar to Scarborough section on the celebration day in May.

In June, Margaret and Les Atkinson organised a weekend trip to Hebden Bridge. The participants were rewarded with perfect weather and the weekend was enjoyed by all.

In September group members helped a party of blind ramblers, who were holidaying in Scarborough, by guiding them on a couple of walks. Our group members certainly enjoyed both days and we think the visitors did.

Footpath Work

Our footpath officer, Les Atkinson has again donated a tremendous amount of time to the job and has had the satisfaction of concluding two outstanding problems:

The obstruction of the footpath at Red House Farm, Staintondale, has frustrated Les and his predecessors for the last ten years. The problem has finally been solved after the owner finally accepted a diversion route, which has now been signed and is unobstructed. As a group, we must try and incorporate the route into our rambles, so that it is regularly used and inspected.

Two weeks ago, National Park footpath officer, Emma Ashton-Wickett emailed Les to inform him that, having got agreement from English Nature, she had arranged for a digger to carry out work at Black Dyke Slack on Black Dyke Moor. The slack can now be forded on foot, without paddling for the first time for many years. As the

footpath had previously been little used, the line has been mowed through the heather, so that it is now possible to take a pleasant walk across the moor from Scaling Dam to Lealholm. A great achievement.

As always, there are several outstanding problems. Progress has been made on the blocked ORPA at Staintondale and a satisfactory end is almost in sight. Fingers crossed. The National Park have promised to include the problems on Waupley Moor, North of Scaling Dam in their programme of works. There is less encouraging news on various problems outside the National Park which are the responsibility of North Yorkshire County Council, where it is proving difficult to even get replies, leave alone any action.

Social Events

Lisa Crozier has organised meals out during the year, which have been appreciated by all and Peter Fahy again organised our Christmas walk and carvery at the Hayburn Wyke Hotel.

Communication

Margaret Atkinson has continued to edit a newsletter for inclusion with the Area News for Scarborough Group members in an effort to keep all members informed of our activities. Margaret and Group Secretary Pam Grimwood attended a workshop at Durham which explained the rebirth of the RA as "The Ramblers" and the correct logos, colours and fonts etc to use when writing on behalf of The Ramblers.

Group Treasurer

Finally, thanks to Malcolm Hunter, who has been our group treasurer for the last three years. Malcolm has now stepped down, but, unfortunately, nobody stood for election to the post at our Group AGM. If any member wonders whether he or she has the time and skill to do the job, I know Malcolm would be pleased to advise you (01723 381501) in confidence.

Phil Trafford & Pam Grimwood

York Group

Two very successful coach rambles were run this year. In May we visited the Dufton/Appleby area, and in September walked from Hathersage in the Peak District. Our annual Summer evening walks programme ran as usual, although numbers participating were disappointingly low.

Steve Hoather arranged a full programme of Wednesday walks with leaders from York and several other groups. The Wednesday Ambles programme was coordinated by Jackie Glew and Margaret Green. These continue to be very popular, attracting walkers from all over the East Yorkshire & Derwent Area. Jackie Glew has set up a social networking site for the Ambles and this is well used to share news and photos etc.

The public transport walks section continues to provide a wide variety of walks at least twice a month and usually more often. The highlight of the year was the walking of the Whitby Way in a logistically challenging seven stages. Although the PT walks are listed in the Area Programme and on the Group's website it has also been necessary to continue providing detailed leaflets of the walks for publicity purposes. Our thanks to everyone who has led a walk for the Group over the last 12 months.

A group of York Ramblers covered the Scarborough to Filey section of the Cleveland way on its 40th anniversary celebration at the end of May. The beautiful weather was enjoyed by all those out on the day. In September we welcomed a group of London Blind Ramblers for a walk along the first stage of the York Millennium Way..

We attended the annual Rowntree Park fair in July, making use of the Area display boards. Other Group publicity has been through the distribution of walks leaflets around local libraries and outdoor shops. Walks and other events are also listed on both the Area Website and our own Group site www.communicate.co.uk/york/yorkramblers2/index.phtml.

A new members' evening was held in April, with an illustrated talk. This was enjoyed by all attending, and a similar event is planned for April this coming year .

The footpath sub-committee has continued to monitor paths etc in our area, including Acaster Malbis, Osbaldwick, Wheldrake Ings and Stillingfleet. Alleygating orders are checked, and often approved. Stella Boaden has resigned after many years, due to failing eyesight. Her contribution has been great, and she will be much missed. All the paths in our area have finally been walked, completing the Use Your Paths challenge. They are concerned that NYCC is falling behind with scheduled work and problems reported to them. There are ongoing problems with the City of York definitive map. David Nunns has attended Local Area meetings of the NYCC PROW liaison group.

We continue to keep in touch with the River Foss Society, mainly via their newsletter.

Monica Nelson has represented our views regarding developments at Terry's, Derwentthorpe, Germany Beck, Castlegate and the University of York.

Tom Halstead has continued to monitor Access issues. Most of his work is concerned with the wider EYD Area, with proposals regarding Coastal Access being the main issue. He was involved with the production of a booklet of walks making use of access land in the ERYCC area, and he and a small number of volunteers are currently producing a booklet entitled 'Access Walks in North Yorkshire' to be published by the NYCC in 2010.

Current Group membership is now 741, somewhat higher than last year.

Vera Silberberg, Group Secretary



Officers and Area Council Members 2008-2009

President:	Ann Holt		
Vice-Presidents:	Hugh Bayley MP, Jack Bower, Roy Dresser, Geoff Eastwood		
(Past-Presidents)	<u>David Rubinstein</u> , Sheila M Smith, <u>Dennis Parker</u> .		
Chairman	Peter Leese	The School House	01377-236274
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		Strensall, York YO32 5AZ	

Area Council Members: Sheila M Smith, Ray Wallis

Additionally each RA Group may also elect upto three of its members to the Area Council (in addition to its Group Secretary).

EY&D Area RA Group Secretaries (as at November 2009)

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