



## New Access Rights Start on September 19th

September 19<sup>th</sup> 2004 will finally see the start of the roll-out of legal public access to areas of moors and uncultivated land that we have been denied for so long. Starting with areas in the South East and the Lower North West, the latter containing moorland in the South Pennines, including Boulsworth Hill and the Bronte Moors, the Bowland Moors and much of the Peak District not already covered by access agreements will shortly be open to the public to wander (with certain restrictions and responsibilities) at will.

So this will be a time for celebration for all ramblers and possibly for us also to be thankful. We must remember the access campaign has been going on for many generations with its highs and lows, promises and broken promises and opportunities lost. Neither must we forget those many comrades we have lost on the road to access. Without them we may not have achieved the Freedom to Roam they too looked forward to. So thankful to all access campaigners, past and present, thankful we will be walking the moors shortly and thankful to all those people who are currently putting every thing in place to enjoy the moors. However, for those of us who enjoy walking over wild moorland there will be celebrations, with every footstep we put on the once forbidden moorlands.

However, we shouldn't expect everything, such as access points & stiles etc., to be in place from day 1 on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Although access land will shortly be shown on OS maps (once they get reprinted) and people will have the right to be there, the practicalities of making it easily accessible will take a little longer. The various local authority and national park Ranger services are (hopefully) working flat out to bring it all about but a little patience will still be needed.

At the moment the only maps of access land are those which you can download from the Countryside Agency's website ([www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk](http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk)), which also has other practical information). Presumably leaflets, etc, will also be distributed for those without internet facilities and Tourist and other information centres will also be supplied with this information. Also walkers will have to be aware of possible temporary and, in a few possible cases, permanent closures. These will have to be discussed at Local Access Forums, where Ramblers are represented and hopefully the presumption should be for the least restrictive option wherever possible.

Shortly we'll also be seeing the sign shown right denoting where access land is open. The same sign with a red line running diagonally through it will denote where boundaries are not clear or where there is no access.



There will be a number of Rallies and other events to celebrate the new Access in a number of places.

In **Haworth** on Sunday September 19<sup>th</sup> itself starting at 11.00 at the Community Centre in Butts Lane followed by a number of walks, including one to the top of Boulsworth Hill (Contact:01423-872268). A week later on the 26<sup>th</sup> there will be walks and rallies centred around **Langsett Barn** starting at 10.30am, with a free bus from Sheffield at 09.30 (Contact:01226-765042). Other events are probably also being planned elsewhere.

More locally, access does not arrive in the East Yorkshire & Derwent Area until next year. In May for Region 5 (North East down to a line between York and Bridlington) and November for Region 8. The closing date for submissions by landowners and users to appeal against their land being shown on access maps will close for Region 8 in September and the Appeal Inquiries about these submissions will start in October for Region 5 in October (see separate article).

Other CRoW Act news:- Nationally the RA is putting together a number of test cases under Section 63 legislation which can be used to force a Local Authority to clear a right of way if land owners refuse to.

There is also concern at the way that other legislation contained within the Act is being used to close so called 'Nuisance Alleyways' and also paths near to or crossing school fields, we feel that local objections are often ignored, assuming some form of consultation takes place anyway. Whilst ramblers would not condone anti-social behaviour, we don't think closing off alleyways and ginnels will, in itself, stop such behaviour but probably just move it elsewhere and have the effect of inconveniencing many local residents or other people who just want to walk through the area. We think alternative methods

[www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk)

- *working for walkers* -

## THANKS & WELCOME

Can we thank all those members who have renewed their subscriptions to the Ramblers Association over the last few months and thank them for their continued support for the work and campaigns of the RA.

Could we also welcome all those people who have joined the Ramblers recently and we hope you find our varied walks, social programmes, campaigning, access and footpath work by the various Groups in our Area sufficiently repays your investment.

If not - please let us know!

And don't forget - if you want to help with the RA's voluntary work - be it walk leading, access or footpath work or surveying or whatever - contact either your local Group Secretary or go along to the Group's AGM (details in Area Programme) or contact the Area Chairman or Area Secretary.

### East Yorkshire & Derwent RA Area

Area Chairman	Area Secretary
Chris Bush	Malcolm Dixon
23 Albemarle Road,	8 Horseman Ave,
York YO23 1EW	Copmanthorpe,
	York YO23 3UF
01904-612401	01904-706850

### Some Dates for Your Diaries

The 2005 EY&D RA Area AGM will be held on Saturday January 22nd 2005 at the Bell Hotel in Driffield, starting at 2.00pm There will be a walk in the morning commencing at 10.00am

The EY&D RA Area Councils will be on:-  
Saturday October 2nd 2004 at Kirbymoorside Friends Meeting House starting at 2pm  
There will be a walk commencing at 10.00am

Wednesday February 2nd 2005 at Wetwang Village Hall starting at 7.30pm

Wednesday June 15th 2005 at Market Weighton Community Hall starting at 7.30pm

There will be a walk (&meal) beforehand commencing at 4.00pm

Saturday October 8th 2005 at Terrington Village Hall starting at 2.00pm, with a walk in the morning commencing at 10.00am

ALL RA members are welcome to attend and participate in any of the above meetings.

Affiliated organisations may also send representatives

### SITUATIONS VACANT

Pocklington RA Group is looking for a new Secretary as Kirsty Brooks has indicated she wishes to step down at the next Group AGM.

The Group AGM will be on Friday November 12th at Burnby Hall and will include a slide show on what activities the Group has done so far.

York RA Group is looking for a new Chairman and would also like to welcome new people onto both its main Committee and also on the footpaths sub-committee.

The date of the Group's AGM is still to be fixed, although it should be on the Group's newsletter if you receive it. More details from

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## MILLET'S WELCOME TO WALKING WEEK

September 18th to 26th 2004

The Millets 'Welcome to Walking' Week is a nationwide festival of walking organised by the RA that is free and open to everyone and especially those new to walking. The event is bringing together three themes:-

Family friendly walks suitable for families with children.

(Please check with contact if pushchair-friendly.)

Elm Map walks organised in partnership with the Natural History Museum to map Britain's surviving elms.

Car-free walks giving people an opportunity to join a walk that is accessible without a car, in conjunction with In Town Without My Car Day (European Car-Free Day) on 22 September.

This year the festival also coincides with ITV's National Day of Walking on 19 September, part of its Britain on the Move campaign encouraging people to get active through walking. We are also including walks to celebrate the launch of the first areas of new access land in England under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

As an extra incentive to discover the joys of walking, non-members will be able to join the Ramblers at a 20% discounted rate.

Whether you're a member or not, come along if you are interested in joining a walk, but please ensure you wear suitable clothing and carry plenty of liquid refreshments as well as snacks. All walks are led by an experienced leader. For the most up-to-date list of walks visit our website: [www.ramblers.org.uk/walks](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/walks)  
Locally, in addition to those shown in the Area Programme we have the following additional walks taking place:-

Sept 20 <sup>th</sup> Clifford's Tower, York	SE 605515	14:00	4m	01904 706850
Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup> Bishopthorpe Library	SE 593476	14:00	3m	01904 706850
Catch 13.44 No 11 First Bus from Rougier St, York				
Sept 23 <sup>rd</sup> Whitwell-on-the-Hill	CH SE 724659	10:30	3m	01904 628134
Sept 23 <sup>rd</sup> Hutton Hill layby an A64	SE 739679	12:00	3m	01904 628134
Sept 23 <sup>rd</sup> Bar Farm on A64	SE 762698	14:00	3m	01904 628134
Do one or all 3 walks using Coastliner buses				
Sept 26 <sup>th</sup> The Blue Bell Inn, Driffield	TA 028573	14:00	3.5m	01377 252412

Past Town Lock, along the canal bank to Whinhill Lock before returning along the same route to Driffield. This walk celebrates the addition of this popular walk to the definitive map and takes the walker from the Riverside Conservation Area along the canal bank with attractive views of the SSSI around the River Hull and Trout Stream to the South, and plenty of interesting wildlife to observe.

Also on Sunday Sept 26<sup>th</sup> Hull RA Group will be doing the 'Coniston 8'  
Meet in the layby nr Blacksmith Arms in Coniston SE 156353 at 10.00am for a gentle ramble of 4-5 miles with Lunch at about 12.15 Or join us at 1pm for a gentle ramble of 4-5 miles Finish about 3.30pm. Ramblers are invited to join the walk for the day or for either the morning or afternoon walk.

Contact 01482-708026 for more details

**Visit: [www.ramblers.org.uk/walks](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/walks)** for the most up-to-date list of 'Welcome to Walking' walks

### COACH RAMBLE

Also taking place on **Sunday September 19<sup>th</sup>** will be **York RA Group's Coach Ramble**. Two walks are planned, a 10mile linear walk from Worton down to **Leyburn**, and a circular amble around Leyburn itself. Seats will cost **£7**. Please book asap via Group Sec, Vera Silberberg, on 01904-628134 or any other member of the Group Committee.

### Thank you 1

Roger, Dorothy, Ann, Joan, Mary and friends would like to thank all friends and colleagues for their generous sponsorship on our recent trek to Everest Base Camp. The magnificent sum of £3,600 was raised for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. Thank you. *Ann Cumberland*

### Thank you 2

22 members of the Pocklington RA Group recently held a sponsored walk for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance and raised £2,200 and would like to thank everyone who donated and supported their efforts. *Monica Isles*

## Ramblers welcome updated Countryside Code

The Country Code, which has been familiar to countryside visitors in Britain for over 50 years, has finally been replaced. On 12 July 2004 the Countryside Agency launched a new Countryside Code for England, to be followed by a launch in Wales on 21 July. The new Code has been welcomed by the Ramblers as a major improvement on its predecessor.

The main reason for the new Code is the provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000, introducing new rights of access to open country during 2004 and 2005. But the Code, which was last revised in 1981, was already long overdue for a makeover: a simple list of do's and don't's, given without explanation, is perhaps not the best way to help today's generation enjoy and respect the countryside. And the Ramblers have long pointed out the unfairness of having rules for visitors without explaining to land managers their side of the bargain. The new Code is longer than its predecessor, but also more welcoming and with more explanation as to why you should stick to its rules. The long-awaited advice to land managers also now forms part of the Code. A major promotional campaign for the Code features characters created by the award-winning Aardman Animations studio of Wallace and Gromit fame.

The key messages of the new Code are **"Respect - Protect - Enjoy"** and the new advice to users is organised under five key headings. There are also new websites containing additional information at [www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk](http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk) (for England) and [www.codcefngwlad.org.uk](http://www.codcefngwlad.org.uk) (for Wales). In Scotland, where the Land Reform Act gives a statutory right of responsible access to almost all land and water, there will be a new Outdoor Access Code produced by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH): a comprehensive document covering a range of outdoor activities

## LOCAL ACCESS NEWS

Followers of Access matters will know that the Countryside Agency's mapping operation covers our Area with two of its mapping regions, 5, North East and 8, East. We have now reached the stage in Region 5, which covers that part of our Area north of a line drawn from York to the coast at Bridlington, where the landowners are appealing against sites which have been shown as access land on the Provisional Map.

The EY&D Area access editorial team, building on the initial work of the mapping volunteers, have submitted evidence to the Planning Inspectorate on every site which has been the subject of an appeal, so far this has meant 32 appeals. There has been an appeal against every single site mapped as open country, with the single exception of a field at West Heslerton adjacent to the Yorkshire Wolds Way.

This is a complex process as a single appeal can cover parts of as many as five different dales and the submissions have got very technical with the Birdsall and Halifax estates employing professional ecologists to survey the appeal sites and submit reports. We have been able to counter this with a similar level of botanical expertise and produced photographic evidence indicating the 'open' nature of the sites.

Ten of the appeals are to be decided by written representations and we can now only await the inspector's decision on these. The other 22 are to be decided by public hearings at the

Talbot Hotel in Malton, YO 17 7AJ in October on the following dates

Thursday 7th 11.15 start; Monday 11th 09.15 start; Tuesday 12th 09.15 start  
Wednesday 13th 09.15 start; Thursday 14th 11.15 start

We intend that the RA should be represented at these hearings by members of the editorial team who have been involved in submitting the detailed evidence. It would be very good to have support from any members who could attend and it would show the level of local interest amongst walkers which would be of general importance in demonstrating the level of public interest in access. You may even be able to speak, if you wish, but this would be at the discretion of the inspector. It is a very interesting chance to see the planning process in action. I have a schedule of which dales are to be dealt with on which day.

If anybody wants any further information you can consult the CA's web site [www.countryside.gov.uk/accees](http://www.countryside.gov.uk/accees) or you can ring the access helpline on 0845 100 3298 or contact me on 01904 424072.

The Provisional Map for Region 8, covering the rest of our Area has been published and the landowners are no doubt currently making appeals, they have until September to register appeals. Some time after this we will be able to challenge their appeals in order to try to keep land on the map.

Martin Biggs, Area Access Officer

and including guidance for both users and land managers. The Scottish Code has been passed by the Scottish Parliament and should be launched in November 2004. For more information see the [Ramblers Scotland](#) pages.

Ramblers volunteers and staff have been heavily involved in the drafting of the new Code and we think the result is a big improvement on the old version, giving more welcoming, comprehensive and even-handed guidance to all concerned. Although the new Code is longer, key points can be extracted for use in circumstances where space is limited. The section for land managers answers our long standing complaint that it was impossible for walkers to follow the Code unless land managers also stuck to the rules, for example by keeping paths open so that visitors could keep to the correct route.

The Country Code first appeared in 1951, and was last revised in 1981. It has become as much a part of the landscape for British countryside visitors as Ordnance Survey maps, with the 12 rules reproduced countless times on everything from notices, posters, flyers and guidebooks to bookmarks and mugs. But the roots of the Code go back even further: the Ramblers' Association was one of several organisations that produced unofficial codes of conduct for countryside visitors before the Second World War, and until the early 1980s Ramblers' members had to agree to abide by the Code when signing up.



## YORK GROUP AMBLES PROGRAMME

All the Wednesday Ambles are open to all RA members (and their friends) who want a walk that doesn't "go too far or too fast". They are between 6 and 8 miles long and commence at 10-30am.

A full list of the walks is available from either the York Group Secretary, Vera Silberberg, or the Ambles organiser, Alan Clark, 12 Vanbrugh Drive, York YO10 5HE. A stamped, self-addressed envelope would be appreciated.

For further information about the Ambles - call Alan on 01904-411969

## BOOTS FOR SALE

Hilda Petfield has written to say that she has reluctantly decided that she will no longer be wearing her walking boots again and wonders if anyone would be interested in having them. They are made by Scarpa, size 38 and in good condition. They could be yours for just £20. Contact Hilda on 01759-371156 if you are interested.

Hilda also sends best wishes from her and Tom to all their old rambling acquaintances.

## LATE NEWS - OS ACCESS MAPS

The OS has announced it intends to have updated editions of all 32

Explorer maps that cover the first two Regions ready for use by September 19th. See [www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk)



I was asked to attend this council as a delegate. It was to be held in a city which I had never visited. How could I refuse? The University, in a range of buildings mostly easy on the eye, is sited in 400 acres of hilly ground. Full of old trees and woodland, the campus is open to the public and mentioned in 'Places to Visit when in Exeter. It is a wonderful setting.

On Friday evening we were welcomed by Nick Barrett, our Chief Executive. There were many members of 20's and 30's groups invited to witness what happened at Council. They also had several of their own meetings. A presentation by the Charity Commission began our meetings. It consisted of a review of the work of the Charity Commissioners both nationwide and within the RA. One of 160,000 registered charities in England and Wales, the current roles of the National Executive Committee and the General Council are contradictory - the consolation for that being that our organisation is not alone. Only one trustee body is needed. Despite this the RA is considered to be well run; the next question would be 'What happens next?' As the speaker said 'The future is in your hands'. Discussion ensued but no conclusions were reached. The second presentation concerned 'The Voluntary Review'. There are several ways of recruiting a volunteer force. How does the RA do it? Do we take our volunteers for granted? Will new members continue to join their ranks? If not, why not? Are we giving them our best support? How can available money be put to its greatest use? Are we showing our volunteers enough appreciation? With these questions in our heads we retired to bed or the bar. Horrifyingly, this did not have enough beer!!

Saturday began with a wonderful range of items for breakfast. Fortified to full strength, the real business of the day began. In the same lecture hall that we used all weekend Chips Barber, Area President for Devon, welcomed us. It promised to be lively but began in the fashion of meetings everywhere, by approving the minutes of the last meeting. Progress has been made in connection with Family Rambling events and also with the insurance necessary for those on footpath work. The Annual Report reminded visitors and delegates of the Land Reform Act (Scotland) which was passed last year. Consequently, Scotland is the most forward-looking country in the whole of Europe in this matter. The Report continues to emphasise the financial benefits (£6bn) of walking to the countryside. One of our purposes is to introduce different groups of people to walking - families have already been mentioned, the disabled, inner city dwellers, ethnic minorities, older folk etc, etc. Preceded by the formal election of officers, Chris Smith MP, spoke to us. He is our new President but due to prior commitments unable to be with us for more than an hour or two this weekend. He ended with 'I look forward to walking with you and campaigning in the British countryside.' Jerry Pearlman, our honorary solicitor was awarded a vice presidency in recognition of his many years service to the RA. He is also Chairman and vice-president of West Riding Area. Consideration of the Motions then began. There were only nine this year which meant that there was more chance for debate. The inclusion of coastal land in the definition of Open Country was easily agreed especially as so many areas have access to the sea. Relating agricultural subsidies to cross compliance to clear Rights of Way was another motion with no disagreement. The RA was required to pursue this matter 'robustly'.

After lunch, there was an EC presentation about the Charity commission review. Governance was touched on together with trustee responsibilities. The methods and ways of electing National EC members were also mentioned - there may be changes coming! Concerning the Volunteer Structure review, we need to focus on our limited resources and how they can be made more effective. There is a need to invest more in support of volunteering and to consider the organisational structure. Timetables may play a part in widening the range of replacement volunteers. Not everyone is available on Wednesday afternoon!! Activities should also be fun and full of enjoyment. Consultation will take place next year and General Council considers these findings in 2006. Next came a much more relaxed part of the proceedings as Tim Smit came to speak to us. He told of his decision to get involved in reawakening the Lost Gardens of Heligan and how that led on to The Eden Project. Many of us have visited these places and Heligan was voted the Favourite of all the gardens which can be visited in the country. A delightful speaker, Tim was very easy to listen to and highly entertaining. I think that everyone enjoyed his slot. Kevin Cahill had the very hard task of following Tim on a completely different topic 'Who Owns Britain' This was a lot more serious stuff. The question was apparently easy to answer ie. 'The Land Registry.' However 40% of land remains unregistered. How can this be? We learned of another Register compiled between 1872 & 76. This book is full of highly flammable information to those who believe that land should be more evenly shared and possibly distributed. It is amazing that only two copies of the 2 volume book are known to exist and those difficult to view. County councils may have the volume appertaining to that area but generally this information has been airbrushed from history. How? Why? Kevin was making the point that we, the taxpayer, contribute to the CAP fund of the EC, which money is then given as subsidies to landowners to the tune of £26 billion. Hence we have paid for the land upon which we may not be allowed to walk. There is nothing like total freedom. Is this just and honourable? Kevin certainly thought not, along with many members of General Council. Many were the murmurings of agreement. 98% of the land is in the ownership of only 3000 families. How democratic is that? With our thoughts provoked, there was a rush to change and bedeck ourselves before we proceeded to 'The Great Hall' for our 'formal' dinner. Everyone seemed to enjoy their 3 courses and many bought wines to accompany the meal. Later some went to a lively disco until the small hours having been promised sufficient supplies of beer! Others went to a magnificent slide show by Chips Barber showing some of the glories of the county of Devon. It must be added that some folk actually attended both events.

Sunday began early for some with a walk starting at 7.30am but others still needed to be up early for the hustings when each of the 11 candidates for National EC gave their reasons why delegates to Council should cast their votes in a particular direction. Then back to the remainder of the Motions. The first one harkened back to the Registration of land. This included land held in Family trusts, overseas trusts and, in fact, financial trusts of any kind. DEFRA, in fact, holds all this information but cannot release it due to the Data Protection Act. Why the matter was not clarified before the advent of that Act remains an unsolved mystery. However the lack of open information causes many problems. Remittance to National EC was agreed, as the matter needs more consideration. The next motion concerning disabled ramblers was presented by

# RA's General Council 2004

one of their number. She uses a buggy to go walking; we had all seen this robust machine in use around Council and realised its width and general heavy appearance. There are those ramblers content with a walk of a mile or less but others like distances of about 10 miles. For this there are few routes. Generally, there is a lack of information on this matter and, after discussion, the matter was remitted to National EC. The third motion of the morning concerned the lack of consultation with areas prior to the change of name of our magazine. Although there were worries, these changes had only been made after consultation (agreed by Council) to make the whole organisation more appealing to a younger age range. The inhouse magazine is one facet of that. The motion was eventually lost. NEC then proposed that Council ratifies the RA memorandum and Articles of Association dated 1.10.2003. This was carried just prior to a break when voting for NEC members and the Agenda Committee took place. After this Council was asked to amend article 4.2. of the RA Articles of Association. Details were given and the motion carried. Next, the accountability of the Legal Panel was under discussion. I'm, not sure that I even knew of the existence of this body. However, logic says that it must considering the amount of legal work and detail in which the RA is involved. It was felt that if the Legal Panel was accountable to NEC that it is an adequate check. Not all NEC members are on the legal panel. The motion was rejected. Then excitement, the results of the elections were announced. The new NEC comprises, in a completely random order:- Cath McKie [Sheffield], Terry Pollard, Mavis Rear, Peter Ayling [EY&D], Kate Ashbrook [Oxfordshire], Kevin Matthews [Nottingham], Owen Plunkett [Hampshire], Annette Cotter [London] and Peter Skipp. Future GC venues and dates were approved: University of Nottingham 8 – 10 April 2005, Keele University 21 – 23 April 2006. GC is unable to go to Guildford as their term dates have changed due to adoption of a semester system. However, all offers gratefully considered bearing in mind that it may be necessary to change the date of GC at some stage. The Chairman's closing remarks included a reminder that completed evaluation forms are essential to assess whether this new, more relaxed approach to GC is desired or not. It was pointed out that the office is in the middle of an internal review to see if campaigns can be run more effectively. Nick emphasised the importance of teamwork and working together. NEC must hear what Areas have to say and vice versa. The financial support of our many silent members is vital to running the organisation. It is also encouraging so many new faces, especially those with the courage to join in.

After lunch, I had chosen to go on the arranged walk. We saw and walked ancient paths which had been cleared by machete wielding volunteers, some bridleways suitable for buggy use together with some glorious views of Devon, a county I hardly know.

I enjoyed this General Council and felt privileged to be your delegate. It would have been good to have more involvement with the younger element that had several of their own meetings. To see brown, blonde and black hair [I cannot remember a redhead] was a real pleasure after the silvers and greys of so many of our stalwarts. Come and join us next year and hear what happened to those matters 'Referred to NEC'

Sheila M Smith, Vice President,  
East Yorkshire and Derwent RA Area.

## Festival of Winter Walks 26th December 2004 - 1st January 2005

Last year we celebrated the 15th anniversary of the Festival of Winter Walks, the national event which provides a week of walks between Christmas and New Year. The festival is part of the RA's commitment to promote walking, is open to everyone and as such is a good recruitment opportunity. Almost 8,000 people took part in 369 walks organised around Britain and as a result we recruited 345 new members. The RA is proposing to introduce three themes this year to help make our Festival of Winter Walks 04/05 more appealing to both members and the general public.

### FAMILY WALKS

Christmas is traditionally seen as a time when we spend time with our families. It is the time when different generations get together, exchange gifts and enjoy the festivities of the season. It is an ideal opportunity to welcome friends and family members on RA walks.

Walks with a local theme or special interest are always popular and can be very useful for generating publicity. The possibilities here are enormous - you could give the walk a festive angle, finish it with a Christmas cake stop in a local tea shop or perhaps organise a treasure hunt. And please remember to make it an easy walk so that all members of a family, including children, can take part.

### HEALTH WALKS

Taking up walking could be a perfect New Year resolution. We all know how many people each year join a gym only to give up a few months later. And we all know about the health benefits of walking, an activity far more enjoyable than spending 30 minutes on a treadmill.

Medical reports show that three quarters of the UK's population is at risk of suffering from a serious health problem due to inactivity. Yet a brisk 30-minute walk five times a week would help reduce this risk. We should walk the recommended 10,000 steps a day to help protect us against a range of lifestyle-related illnesses, including diabetes, heart disease and some forms of cancer. A great way to keep a check on your progress is a pedometer which counts the number of steps that you take each day. To encourage non-members participating in health walks to join the Ramblers we will offer a free pedometer with every full-rate membership paid by direct debit.

For more information about healthy walking visit [www.ramblers.org.uk/health](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/health)

### THE DISCOVERING LOST WAYS PROJECT

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 has introduced a certain urgency about getting paths added to the definitive map. Any path which is not currently in use and has not been put on the definitive map by 2026 will be automatically extinguished. It is feared that about 16,000 kilometres of rights of way may be lost in this way.

The Countryside Agency has promised that a Government-funded project, to be called the Discovering Lost Ways project, will over the next few years research county and other archives to get these missing paths resurrected and put on to the definitive map. We hope to use the festival to communicate the urgency of this situation. And it would be a great assistance if you could organise walks including examples of paths which have been added to the definitive map as a result of somebody's efforts in applying to the council for a definitive map modification order. This may then allow us to highlight the subject and, assuming we ourselves have it from the Government, hand out information on the project and how interested people can get involved with it. If you have any ideas for walks to include in the Festival then send details to the Area Rambles Sec or the Area Sec.

*For news on what the 20's-30's are  
doing or planning go to their website*

**[www.gybo.org.uk](http://www.gybo.org.uk)**

## THE DERWENT WAY 2004

Stage 1 March 21.  
Buttecrambe to Norton. 14 miles

As we set off, I found myself wondering why we were doing only *half* the Derwent Way. Not half this year and half next, you understand, but half full stop. Does anyone aim to walk only half the Coast to Coast? Or climb no more than half of Scafell? More to the point, what about the badges? A rucksack emblazoned with half a badge would do little for my trail cred.

Of course, there were plenty of possible explanations. Perhaps global warming was to blame? Is the Derwent only half the river it used to be?

Maybe the Ryedale Committee was responsible.

Mr Chairman, after our successes with the Wolds Way and the Ebor Way, I'd like to propose that we do the Derwent Way in 2004.

Thank you for that suggestion. What do other members of the committee think? Mr Chairman, with great respect, I don't think we need a long distance walk in 2004.

Did my completely imaginary Chairman, no doubt a person of good sense, eventually suggest - with one glazed eye on the clock - that 2004 should be the year of the demi-Derwent?

Well, certainly not. Rather, Howsham walks impressario John Williams came up with the idea of a half Derwent for good logistical reasons. We could then meet for all four stages at Norton with a coach to take us either to our starting point and/or return us there from our finishing point. Added to which, the second half of the D.W. is, I am told, generally prettier than the first.

So, after two days of storms, we were delighted to settle for a sunny - if windy - day plus a couple of hail showers. Forty-two of us set out from Buttercrambe and after passing through Scrayingham reached the banks of a fairly full Derwent. It was very pleasant walking close to the river, then through the woods to our coffee stop at Howsham weir opposite the old mill house; an architectural gem ripe for restoration. Then on to the perfect lunch stop opposite Kirkham Priory where

we watched three fishermen setting new standards in sporting indolence. Their listless efforts and comfortable, reclining chairs were enough to make at least one of us wonder if he should change his outdoor activities for inactivities.

The afternoon produced a surprise - a hill. After which we passed through the smart village of Cranbeck, once the location of the Castle Howard Reform School, a farm institution for young offenders. Brideshead Revisited meets the Archers; plenty of storylines there for would-be writers.

And so back to Norton via Low Hutton's version of the Millenium Bridge and the new flood defences for Malton. An excellent day but after 14 mostly claggy miles my legs were glad to reach the car park.

Stage 2  
Norton to East Heselton 14 miles

Not much sign of the Derwent today. Glimpses of it as we leave Norton and again at Yedingham. Because of a dearth of rights of way close to the river we are forced to take to long, flat stretches of minor road. Our route takes us via Eden Camp, Ryton Bridge, Low Marishes and Yedingham to East Heselton.

Thirty-nine walkers in all. Our cheerfulness is as persistent as the rain. Quite why I am not sure. A cartoon in a recent Area News showed two birds perched defiantly on a scarecrow as they watched a line of ramblers trudging along in pouring rain. Their comment, 'apparently they do it for pleasure', expresses a puzzlement which, I guess, at times we all share.

John Williams yet again earned our special gratitude. Not only was he deputising as leader but had pre-walked Stage 2 no less than four times in order to determine the best route. Dedication, indeed.

Stage 3  
East Heselton to West Ayton 14 miles

The contrast with Stage 2 could hardly have been greater; a warm sunny day, pretty scenery and some handsome villages. Thirty seven of us set out from East Heselton along a nice elevated stretch of the Wolds Way before turning off towards Ganton and the elusive Derwent. Indeed, no sooner had we spotted one river than another - the positively reclusive River

Hertford - put in a brief appearance. At this point we were strolling through lush countryside with green lanes, prosperous-looking farms and plenty of bird life. And then on to Wykeham, Hutton Buschel and Ayton Castle. By now, with the temperature in the 20's, some of us were beginning to wilt so the shade provided by the woods in Forge Valley was extremely welcome as we walked by a wide and still Derwent. Then a little sting in the tail, a hard climb up to our coach at Cockrah Road Nevertheless, an excellent day's walking.

Stage 4  
West Ayton to Lilla Howe 15 miles

A warm day and 40 walkers but I was not among them. But, John Williams, Malcolm Dixon (AN's Editor) and I had pre-walked Stage 4 a couple of weeks earlier. A splendid day's walking it was too. First there was the Derwent at its serene best in the lovely landscapes surrounding Cockrah Foot, Wrench Green and Langdale End; wide and full and complete with herons and Canada geese and their goslings. Then, higher up, where the Derwent flows through the forest, the gurgle-factor increases as the river flows more swiftly. Finally, out on the rugged terrain of Fylingdales Moor, we get as close as we can to the narrow beginnings of the Derwent; the actual source being within the boundaries of RAF Fylingdales. The fine river of earlier in the day was now little more than a water feature for the Star Wars people.

All that remained was to pay a visit to the saxon Lilla Howe cross, one of Christianity's oldest memorials in the North, and make our way down to our transport at Eller Beck after a superbly varied walk.

Again, John Williams and the Ryedale group deserve our thanks for sponsoring these walks. John ended up leading all four stages with his usual good humour and concern (and provided us with notes about the points of interest on each stage). One can only guess at the commitment in terms of time and effort that goes into a venture like this. Many thanks, John from all who took part. Here's to next year and the Cleveland Way.

Gerry  
Wallace



### RA Subscriptions To Increase

The RA has announced there is to be an increase in membership subscription rates from October 1st 2004. The new full rate will be £24 and the reduced rate will be £14. This is the first increase in five years and represents an effective average increase of just 4% a year over that period. An article in *walk* magazine will explain the rationale behind the increase, the principal aim of which is to generate more money for campaigning purposes.



# Book Reviews

Exploring Lake Pickering John E. Eckersley ISBN: 0 9535862 2 7 £9.00

Car Free Countryside Walks Accessible From York Patsy Pendegrass ISBN: 1 904446 04 03 £4.99

In 1902, Percy Kendall described how a great lake, Lake Pickering, had existed in the Vale of Pickering during the Ice Age. His original ideas have since been modified but recent investigations have confirmed that a lake did exist, though smaller than at first thought. Moreover, other research has discovered that, immediately after the Ice Age, another separate lake, known as Lake Flixton, was formed in the eastern part of the Vale.

In **'Exploring Lake Pickering'** John Eckersley has devised a 155 mile Trail that follows the higher land around the edges of the two lakes. Additionally, John has provided 36 separate but inter-linked day circular walks which follow the trail, beginning at Kirkham Abbey and passing along the Howardian and Tabular Hills, the North Sea coastal cliffs and the Yorkshire Wolds. This gives a possible total of 378 miles to walk around this beautiful and varied countryside. Most of the 36 smaller circular walks are around 10 miles long, with the shortest 6mils and the longest 13mils. Many even have shorter walk alternatives. Full route instructions are given and John has added notes on places along the walk that may be of interest. Special emphasis has been given to the many churches and other places of Christian worship and witness with notes contributed by Leslie Stanbridge, the former Archdeacon of York. Other members of John's team have provided excellent photos and drawings and produced full colour maps. A list of all the locations featured in the photographs is also available from the author to help you hunt them out.

Two slight quibbles in an otherwise excellent book:- The book understandably concentrates on the 36 circular walks which form or branch off the Lake Pickering Circuit as this is how most readers will do the Trail. However, this means there's no information on how to plan doing the walk as a whole, with no notes on accommodation, etc. Similarly there is little reference to using public transport to do any of the walks or even who you could contact to get this information.

(Can I suggest trying either the RA's Members Handbook and/or the RA's:- [www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk) as good starting places).

Having said that, I thoroughly recommend this book to walkers in our Area, a good read and likely to make you want to get your maps out and boots on and start following its instructions.

Well worth the £9, with profits from its sale going to Christian Aid.

Why not give it to your friends for Christmas!

By the way - if you think you've got a walks book inside you why not get in touch (via the Area Sec) - the RA can offer both practical and financial help in getting a book (as long as it's in line with its charitable aims) off the ground.

## PUBLICITY

Approximately one year ago we members of the Ramblers' Association were asked by central office to consider methods of publicizing the activities of our organization. When this matter was brought up at the Driffield Group meeting I volunteered to see if it was possible to get reports of our walks printed in the local paper.

So it was that I embarked on the business of submitting an article of about 500 words to the Driffield Times on a walk that our group had done and with great fear of rejection asking if the editor would like to receive any similar copy. To my great surprise I was told that the paper would be very grateful to receive reports of RA walks and since then our Group has had 9 or 10 published. At first I was convinced that no one read them but over the months it has proved that one has not ploughed in vain. In fact to my certain knowledge there have been at least three people who have been inspired to enquire about membership by reading these articles. Also I have learnt that several people now make a point of watching out for the articles and enjoy reading them.

This small success has been achieved through a paper with a very small circulation, only just over 5000 a week. One is therefore caused to wonder what results may be gained if other RA Groups presented articles to their local newspapers? I am sure that there are among our number other budding journalists out there and the task is not really very onerous.

Another simple publicity strategy that the Driffield Group has adopted is the production of A4 size posters advertising our next walk. They are not difficult to produce with a computer and can be displayed in libraries, schools, health centres and many other places. If any one out there feels moved to become publicity officer for their Group I would be very glad to share with them the experience I have gained over the time I have been acting in that role. So please do e-mail me and I will give you my wisdom such as it is and send you examples of what the Driffield Group have produced. My Email address is: [don118@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:don118@ukonline.co.uk). Don Laing

## FOOTPATHS WEEK 2004 - Weedley Springs Event

Forty people, many local and of all ages, turned out on a fine Sunday in June at South Cave to help the RA celebrate the re-opening of Bridleway 19 through Weedley Springs. Our four mile walk took us through Little Wold and Comber Dale where we stopped to hear short speeches from the RA's Jacquetta Fewster and Hazel Armstrong representing horseriders (whose speech is printed to the right), before going through the first of the 2 newly erected kissing-gates (rabbit proof & big enough to take a horse) and dropping down to walk along the cleared Commissioners Road to join the track of the old railway line, back through the second set of gates and back to Drewton and South Cave.

## Weedley Bridleway

"On the celebration of the re-opening of the Weedley bridleway in east Yorkshire, the local horseriders would like to thank the members of the Ramblers Association who worked so very hard during rather fraught times and a long public enquiry to resolve this long standing dispute over the status of the way. I would like to thank especially Mike Jackson, who put in hours of research in the archive to uncover what really happened when the definitive map was made and highlighted the severe shortcomings of the then local authority.

Thanks also to Colin Seymour who represented the greater public interest with his enormous depth of knowledge of ancient law and past case history. We should also thank Howard Peel who represented cyclists at the enquiry.

The new gates may look horrendous at the moment, but should, in time, mellow and as we see them now they are the first "rabbit proof, bridle-kissing-gates" to be erected in the country. We see also the newly cleared (by E.R.Y.C.) "Commissioners Road" some 20ft wide and described in the Inspector's decision "the soil therefore passed in succession to the local highways board and in due course to the present East Riding of Yorkshire Council as the Highways Authority". It remains to be seen if they now agree that they own this!!"

So thanks to all concerned for saving this vital historic route."  
Hazel Armstrong

### EY&D RA Area proposed Goole and Howden Group

SEPTEMBER 2004 NEWSLETTER

This is the second newsletter for the group in the process of formation. Yes - we have got that far. Ken Boothman has agreed to be chairman; Diana Kitson and Marian Thomas are willing to serve on the steering group with some secretarial post - Marian will take over programme secretary and Diana will help with publicity. Margaret Clarke is also involved, but will be moving away soon. This is better than those at the May meeting who said no-one would serve. But they will need further support, and will take over as local contacts.

The programme of summer walks went well - in spite of wet weather. I get regular phone calls as a result of the press coverage, and it became a feature of each walk that there were never less than four, and usually one newcomer. More than once there were twelve! People have voiced their enjoyment and as a result we had a short planning meeting in the Wellington in Howden. We have a programme of 4 - 5 mile walks to take us to January. The next is on Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup> along Howden Dyke. Meet in Howden Hallgate CP (behind Main Sq) at 1.30pm One item we decided on was that we would meet in either Goole or Howden before going to the start of the walk, so that car sharing can be arranged.

If you are interested in joining us contact Area Chair, Chris Bush, 01904-612401

Or either Marian Thomas 01430 431766 ([thomas.marian@btinternet.com](mailto:thomas.marian@btinternet.com))  
or Diana Kitwood 01405 769888

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED WALKERS CAN BE FOOTPATH WORKERS, TOO!

North Yorkshire CC's Rights of Way Unit are wanting to do a Survey of the State of all Rights of Way in the County and want to enlist members of the public in helping them carry out the survey, parish by parish. The work may be in the office, research in the archives or on the ground doing actual path survey work. And they want it all done by Christmas 2004!! (Partly so that it can form the basis of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan and get included in funding via the Local Transport Plan).

If you are interested in helping, in any way, then get in touch with either Joanne Coote at the NYCC No4 Area Office in Fulford, York on 01904-706850 or with David Nunns, the York RA Group's Footpath Secretary on 01904-791187 as soon as possible.

### The RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION exists to facilitate, for the benefit of everyone, the enjoyment and discovery on foot of Britain's countryside; and to promote respect for the life of the countryside.

The Association promotes rambling, protects rights of way, campaigns for access to open country and defends the beauty of the countryside.

It is a democratic, voluntary organisation.

It is registered as a charity - no 1093577

### AREA NEWS is the official newsletter of the East Yorkshire & Derwent RA Area part of the Ramblers' Association, company limited by guarantee, registration no 4458492

The Editor wishes to thank all correspondents and welcomes contributions: be they news, campaigns, opinions, enquiries, favourite walks, unusual rambles or places to visit, cartoons, book reviews, new footpaths or diversions, amendments and/or additions to the walks programme, etc..

Views expressed in such articles are those of its author and should not necessarily be taken as endorsed by the Ramblers Association, at either Area or National level, unless so stated.

All items for consideration should be sent to :-

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or e-mailed to [eydan.editor@care4free.net](mailto:eydan.editor@care4free.net)

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