



From Our Area Chairman- A New Year, A New Start

Over the past few months a lot has changed about the Ramblers. At national level a number of trustees have decided to resign, making a yearly total of five out of thirteen. I was the fifth, for reasons that it would be inappropriate to comment on now. Looking forward, by the beginning of April we could have as many as eight new trustees who will have the opportunity to make the changes that I believe are necessary.

In the two years that I was a trustee, I discovered that our Area is very much in the top drawer of Areas nationally. Perhaps naively I thought that all Areas were the same as ours. In fact too many are struggling to remain constitutional or suffer from rifts between the Area and their Groups. Whether we are lucky or just good at the way we work together, I leave to others to work out. But, we still have challenges that I want to focus on in the coming months.

We now have a new Chief Executive, Vanessa Griffiths (or Van as she likes to be called). She comes to us from a senior position in the National Trust. She is an excellent communicator, has a strong personality and is very professional in the way she goes about her work. She is going out of her way to meet people and to build bridges (or perhaps more accurately remove obstacles) between Central Office and the membership. The first time I met her she told me that she is convinced that she can grow our membership. After years of decline, seen by many as inevitable, this is a refreshing approach. I will attempt to bring her up to Yorkshire as soon as I can so that she can introduce herself.

At the end of January our Area AGM was hosted by Pocklington Ramblers. Many thanks to all of those involved in hosting and preparing for the meeting and putting together the Annual Report. We were fortunate in being able to welcome Kate Ashbrook as our guest speaker, Kate was able to update us on all that has been happening across Ramblers nationally.

A few weeks ago I attended the funeral of Muriel Metcalfe. During the service we heard that Muriel and Ken considered that joining Ramblers was the best decision they made in their retirement. It says a lot for us that it is not just what we do to promote our charitable interests that is important, but what we do for each other.

Roy Hunt, Chair East Yorkshire and Derwent Ramblers



Fridaythorpe - courtesy of York Group

Area Committee 2017

President	Peter Ayling
Chairman	Roy Hunt
Area Secretary	Tom Halstead
Treasurer	George Malcolm
Vice Chairman	post vacant
Footpath Secretary (Hull & East Riding)	post vacant
Footpath Secretary (York & NYCC)	David Nunns
Walks prog coordinator	Geoff Richardson
Countryside Officer	Peter Ayling
Access officer	Tom Halstead
Communications Officer	Ann Laing
Webmaster	Tony Corrigan
Area News Editor	Marian Thomas
Membership Secretary	Marilyn Skelton
Minutes Secretary	Stephen Down
Publicity Officer	post vacant

Area Council Meetings for 2017

Tuesday May 9th, Fimber Village Hall
 Tuesday July 18th, Fimber Village Hall
 Tuesday October 17th, Wetwang Village Hall
 Tuesday December 12th, Wetwang Village Hall

York Group Coach Ramble

Date Sunday 21 May 2017
To Hathersage, Derbyshire
Walks 3 options - 12, 10 or 8 miles
Cost £11.00 per person
Pick up points –
08.25 a.m. Ingleby's Depot, Hospital Fields Rd, York
08.40 a.m. Memorial Gardens. York
08.50 a.m. BP Garage Great North Way on A1237
Nether Poppleton roundabout
Contact - Lynn Croskin - lynn@croskin.myzen.co.uk or see
York Ramblers website www.yorkramblers.org.uk

Ryedale Group Coach Ramble

Date Sunday 25th June 2017
Place Near Ilkley
A choice of three walks of varying lengths all ending in Ilkley.
£20.00 per person to include a carvery main course at The Anchor Inn at Whixley on the way home, dessert can be chosen and paid for on the day.
Pick up points in Norton/Malton and York.
If you would like to join us please contact Pat Donnor
email patrambling@talktalk.net or by phone on 01751 474667

Mail-shot Printing and Postage costs

At the AGM on 28 January 2017 there was a suggestion the Area Financial Accounts should include postage and print costs for Mail-shots, which may encourage members to reduce costs by opting to have Mail-shots electronically. There are three Mail-shots a year; two include the Newsletter and Walks Programme Booklet whilst the third includes the Newsletter and the Annual Report. The Area 2015/16 accounts are shown in the Annual Report. The combined printing and postage costs amounted to £6,128.49 out of a total spend of £8,577.79. However, the total of £6,128.49 includes the print (£410.00) and postage (£545.18) costs of the September 2015 Walks Programme Booklet which were received too late to be included in the 2014/15 financial year. The annual cost of printing and mailing is approximately £5,200.

If this persuades you to have future mail-shots electronically please contact areamembers2@hotmail.com stating your membership number and Group.
George Malcolm, Area Treasurer

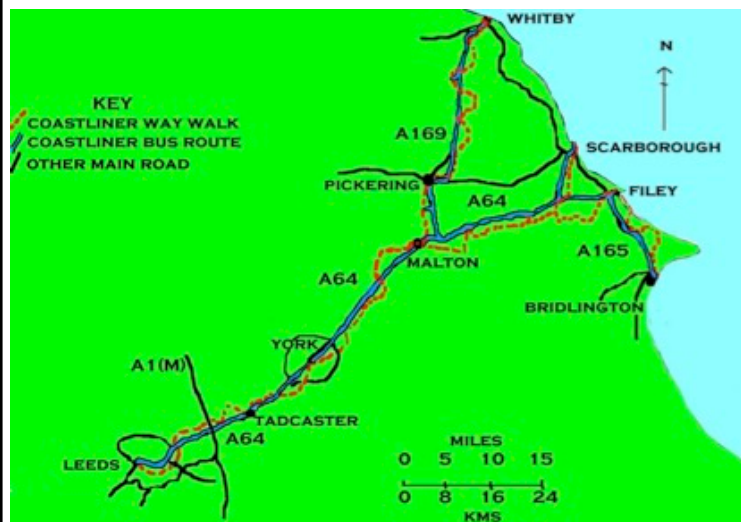


COASTLINER WAY

From May 1 details of the Coastliner Way, a series of walks along the routes of the Coastliner buses, will be available for download from www.johnneckersley.wordpress.com/coastliner-way

John and Nancy Eckersley are the authors of numerous walks books, including 'Cleveland Circles' and 'Exploring Lake Pickering', but have decided on this occasion to go online. Donations to Christian Aid would be appreciated – some people may like to help launch the project on May 20, or with sponsorship. The Coastliner bus company thinks it is a positive idea and are giving support.

The walk starts by going from Leeds to Malton. From there, three separate prongs, corresponding to the 840, 843 and 845 Coastliner buses, lead to Whitby, Scarborough and Filey/Bridlington giving walkers a choice of routes to the coast.



Most of the walks are about 5 to 7 miles long, although in these cases two consecutive walks can usually be joined into a longer one if desired. A few of the walk legs are about 10 miles long but only two of these cannot be split into shorter sections.

Total mileages (including the three separate prongs) add up to around 167 miles. The attraction of the walks is that they all start and finish at a Coastliner bus stop. This means that apart from getting to the start of a walk, there is no need to use private transport.

While many of us have done walks using the Coastliner buses, this provides details of the whole range.
Vera Silberberg, York Group



Area Camp, Middleton-in-Teesdale, 9th -12th June

The Area Camp will be at Leekworth Caravan and Camping Park, Leekworth Lane, Middleton-in-Teesdale, DL12 0TL, NGR NY959 248. The campsite is beside the River Tees, in beautiful surroundings, with a brand new shower and toilet block. Our party will be together in an adults-only area, with a no-noise policy after 10.30pm.

Single occupancy of a tent is charged at £8.50 a night, and double occupancy costs £16.50. Electrical hook-ups are available. I shall make a block booking for tents, and I shall ask for a deposit nearer the date.

I know that several people have already made B&B bookings in the area, and others may wish to do so now; I can supply further details by e-mail or phone. The site has a small cottage, with a double bed, en suite bathroom and catering facilities, for £205 for the three nights of the camp, and this can be booked online at caravancampingteesdale.co.uk.

In April, we will hold our usual two-night pre-camp to finalise the walk schedule.
If I can be of further help, or if you hope to attend but have not yet contacted me, please phone 07535 892131 or email hltw@peaksoft.co.uk.
Harry Whitehouse



Taken on York Public Transport walk on 11th February -
Photo courtesy of Avis Strudwick

North Yorkshire Paths

Planning matters affecting paths are considered by the Groups and Les Atkinson has spent some time trying to stop proposals for an airstrip at Allerston, as a bridleway ran straight across it. This was rejected but the applicant appealed and unfortunately a Planning Inspector agreed with the applicant, as he did not consider this to be a danger to path users and horses.

We have had discussions with Network Rail on level crossings, with proposals for the Ebor Way at Copmanthorpe being dropped due to the cost involved; at Kirkham Abbey we are awaiting quotes for the agreed improvements. We are seeing the completion of last year's Solar Farms Permissions and this year's applications for poultry units, together with the first fracking site at Kikby Misperton, all of which affect paths to some extent.

Ryedale Group and others are making slow progress with path issues raised with North Yorkshire and I do not have much faith in North Yorkshire County Council's proposed revised methods for dealing with outstanding issues outside the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. They still seem unwilling to look at ALL issues initially to determine who is responsible for the issue, before prioritising their own maintenance workload, preferring to only look at paths they have determined as higher priority.

Scarborough Group have had monthly working parties within the North Yorkshire Moors Park, but we are still waiting to see if NYCC's new trial proposals for working parties will be rolled out across the county.

We again ask every ramblers to report every issue they find on a path, using either the NYCC website, or the new Ramblers PathWatch app, preferably with 1 or 2 photos.

When taking a close up picture of a specific issue, please take a second photo to show the issue within the surrounding area. We suggest you always take a pair of secateurs with you to clear gaps, gates and stiles of vegetation for the benefit of yourselves and others. All Groups need extra people to survey paths, look into planning applications and research into paths not shown as definitive on your Ordnance Survey Maps. Some jobs need active fit members, but others can be done as desk jobs. Please find a job to suit yourself.

David Nunns, Footpath Secretary, York & North Yorkshire.

Closure of Coneysthorpe Crossroads Car Park SE 707712

As the Ramblers Representative on the Howardian Hills AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) Advisory Committee I received a reply from the Castle Howard Estate Director informing me that this useful parking place, used as a start point for Ramblers walks for many years, is now permanently out of bounds. The anti-social behaviour of other people has made life uncomfortable for the residents of the adjacent house and as a result the Estate had no alternative but to fence off the car park. The Estate Director made clear in his letter however that we are able to meet and start our walks from the main Castle Howard House Car Park at SE 711699.
Phil Catterall, Ramblers Howardian Hills AONB JAC Member

From our Area President: –Peter Ayling

This is the last of Peter's 5 years as Area President, he also serves as Area Countryside Officer and has fulfilled several different roles in our own Ramblers area and beyond. Editor

A member of another Area recently posted a worrying message on Ramblers Net, proposing that Ramblers volunteers should concentrate their efforts on "core" issues such as rights of way, access and specific countryside matters, but not involve themselves in major issues, particularly climate change. Some of our members already campaign on wider issues, for example protection of native wild animals and plants by supporting RSPB or the Woodland Trust etc. But with climate change, the consequences of our not taking action to prevent the 2°C rise in temperature mainly due to use of fossil fuels that produce greenhouse gases, will be a profound and irreversible change in the global environment. Even a 2°C rise would have serious effects. We have constantly to update our views on what needs to be done as new insights emerge: for example, onshore wind turbines may be more effective than have been thought, because over a two day period turbines recently produced sufficient electricity to power the Dutch rail network. But the government seems to change its mind with the wind: subsidies for turbines are now down, and the project to carry liquid carbon dioxide from power stations to the coast was halted before the technology was even investigated. (So please let me know what you think the main priorities are; e-mail: panda@peterayling.karoo.co.uk). Only 3 of our 8 Groups currently have Countryside/Environmental Officers to do this work, although some generous Officers with other briefs deal with specific countryside issues. Looking for information on what the Ramblers priorities are nationally, I remembered from a distant email the "Wildlife & Countryside Link", a forum of 50 members of organisations including the Ramblers that deals with major environment issues, only to discover that the Link is housed in the same building as the Ramblers on the Thames next to M.I.6. Plenty of opportunity for some mingling of ideas here (but not with M.I.6).

We are fortunate to have three high-quality publications, Area News, the Annual Report, and the Rambles Programme, edited by Marian Thomas, Tom Halstead and Geoff Richardson, respectively. Although my January mail shot went astray for the first time in about 30 years, I was able to find the Report and Group newsletter on our excellent website maintained by Tony Corrigan, and I soon obtained printed copies; of course if you prefer, you can opt to receive them via email, as many members do (see Treasurer George Malcolm's item on page 2). The content of each edition of Area News depends on what you send in, whereas the Annual Report content is more or less fixed. It's interesting to read what our different groups have been involved in, and to get a feel for how we are performing nationally from the officer's reports. Do you read the Annual Report from cover to cover, or perhaps dip into it for particular items? Some other Areas provide copies only for those attending the AGM, but perhaps it's the other members who really need a copy. The Rambles programme might seem to change little from year to year, except in the unique set of walks provided by our brilliant walks leaders, but reflect on this amazing fact: the 1975 Area programme contained only about 50 walks and social events organised by 6 groups, whereas now there are now over 500 walks from 7 groups, with Monday Walks, Public Transport walks, Pub Lunch Walks, Camping Weekends, and GYBO's online walks. (Perhaps one day a few stalwarts will appear to restart a Driffeld – Bridlington Group.)

Incidentally, some of our Area sub-committees now function mainly through emails, and it's gratifying that some new volunteers are coming forward. But on the other hand, several members of Area Council hold more than one post - in some cases up to three ! – how long before a new medical condition appears, Rambler's burnout, if we're not careful?

Hull City of Culture Ramblers walking festival

As part of Hull & Holderness Ramblers' contribution to 2017 – City of Culture we are organising a week of walks with stories attached (or stories with walks attached, whichever way you like to look at it). Routes and Roots reflects the City of Culture theme for Spring, looking at Hull as a place to call home, but also as a gateway to the world, and a place you pass through. Ramblers are always passing through somewhere or other, so this theme should suit us

We are pleased to be working with Hull Storytellers on matching stories to many of the walks; tales of history, wonder and imagination for all ages. The week of walks runs from 6th-14th May and will be open to all. Venues range from Withernsea to Welton, and there are several in Hull City Centre, Old Town and Harbour. Why not try one of the shorter walks then pop into Ferens for the culture (or just for lunch!). Full details of all walks are in the walks programme and on the website.

Liverpool visit Hull

No, not the football team this time. Liverpool Ramblers are planning a day trip to savour the City of Culture to see what all the fuss is about. We will need to shape up as they have experience of this already, having been European Capital of Culture in 2008. About 50 Scousers are expected to make the trip, and Hull & Holderness Group will be organising three or four walks of various lengths to show them the best sights, leaving enough time to sample galleries, museums and pubs. This doesn't have to be a Hull Thing – Ramblers from all over the Area may have favourite walks or talks to offer. Do let us know if you'd like to help out, or just come along and join a walk, meet some new friends and maybe get invited back to Merseyside... This will be happening on Saturday 17th June.

Steven Lack, Hull & Holderness Group

